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# 10th SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE

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## OF P.L.A.F. COMMAND

**S**TUNNED by the previous blows, the enemy has made every effort to put into practice his "defence in depth" strategy by urgently strengthening his defences, launching successive police operations and sweeps and increasing commando activity, air and artillery strikes, and wanton chemical sprays and B.52 bombings.

All this was aimed at carrying out Abram's "clear and hold" strategy which is intended to stave off the collapse of the puppet administration and army. Still, the U.S. could not contain the general offensive and widespread uprising constantly gaining momentum in all parts of South Viet Nam.

According to still incomplete tally, the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. and people last August and September:

— Killed, wounded or captured over 123,000 enemy troops including about 45,000 GIs and satellite troops. In terms of units, they crippled one U.S. plus-sized brigade, and wiped out or heavily depleted 2 infantry regiments, 44 battalions, and 175 companies;

— Shot down or destroyed on the ground 790 aircraft, destroyed over 3,000 military vehicles including 1,685 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, sank or shot ablaze 158 gunboats, combat launches and military cargo ships, wrecked 300 big guns, and burned down 75 ammunition and fuel storages;

— Blew up nearly 100 bridges, and razed to the ground over 200 posts and military sub-sectors.

These successes by far surpassed those in August and September 1967: 220 per cent higher in enemy casualties, 160 per cent in aircraft, 320 per cent in tanks and armoured troop carriers, 340 per cent in big guns, etc.

Thus, in the eight months ending September, the P.L.A.F. and people in South Viet Nam killed, wounded or took prisoner over half a million enemy troops including nearly 180,000 U.S. and satellite troops.

In terms of units, they crippled one U.S.-plus-sized brigade, annihilated

*The Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces has issued its 10th Special Communique, reviewing the big victories recorded by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in August and September last. Following is an abridged version of the communique dated October 8, 1968 and released by Giai Phong Press Agency:*

ated or heavily decimated 4 armour regiments, 2 infantry regiments, one multi-battalion paratroop unit, and 167 battalions, and completely-wiped out 17 armour groups and nearly 700 companies.

Also in these eight months, the P.L.A.F. and people shot down or wrecked on the ground over 5,000 aircraft and destroyed over 10,000 military vehicles among them more than 6,000 tanks and armoured cars.

They also sank or shot ablaze over 700 gunboats and combat launches and military transport ships.

*Thanks to these victories, the strong points of the revolutionary forces have been further consolidated and new factors created for winning yet bigger, all-round victories:*

1. Tremendous successes have been scored in the destruction of enemy live forces and war means. Moreover, the great majority of the enemy troops put out of action last August and September belonged to crack units of the U.S.-puppets, such as the U.S. 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, U.S. Marine units, the U.S. "Air Cavalry Division", the "Americal" Division, the U.S. 11th armour regiment, and main-force units and battalions belonging to the general reserves of the puppet army.

For the first time the Thai mercenaries also lost a whole battalion which was wiped out though solidly entrenched and supported by tanks, artillery and aircraft.

Right in the midst of the rainy season, many enemy units were completely destroyed or heavily decimated, including a plus-sized U.S. brigade. Many gunnery stations and armour parks and convoys of vehicles and vessels were completely destroyed in lightning attacks, and many enemy generals and field officers were killed in action.

2. Our armed forces and people's initiative of attack has become steadier than ever in all fields.

Though trying to hold out in heavily defended positions, the enemy was unable to avoid attacks of diversified forms in cities and towns and along communication axes. The guerilla movement kept developing far and wide in the enemy's rear areas. In Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh, our armed forces and people daily carried out daring armed and political activities and in some cases punished a hundred cruel agents of the enemy right in the heart of cities. The enemy was also struck in nearly all the other important provincial capitals and townships. Our armed forces have also drawn the enemy out of his hide-outs to destroy him. Even in his very denses the enemy was under heavy pressure and repeated attack.

The greater our initiative on the battlefield, the more favourable conditions we have to make use of the factor of surprise to strike at the enemy's vulnerable points, widen them in order to win bigger victories.

3. The more the P.L.A.F. fought, the greater their strength and the higher their combat skill and efficiency. The people's political forces have also taken steady, vigorous steps forward.

In the two months ending September many units fought for many days and nights in a row putting into effect various tactics, and giving full play to all weapons at their disposal on the basis of a high political consciousness, thus fulfilling with merit all their tasks in fighting and building; The main force units have played their role as the main punch on the battlefield.

In their five weeks of continuous fighting the people's armed forces in

Tay Ninh province crippled a plus-sized brigade of the U.S. In addition, they wiped out a number of U.S. troops equivalent to the combat strength of a U.S. infantry division, and annihilated a number of U.S. battalions than the total of a U.S. infantry division. The number of armoured vehicles destroyed equalled the total fleet of a U.S. motorized division, and the number of guns wrecked far exceeded the artillery strength of a U.S. infantry division. Besides, they wiped out or heavily decimated several battalions of the puppet main force and general reserve.

In less than a month, the P.L.A.F. in the plains of Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam) killed, wounded or captured over 16,700 U.S., puppet and satellite troops. In terms of units, they wiped out 6 battalions and 26 companies and heavily decimated one regiment, one multi-battalion ranger unit and 9 battalions. They shot down or destroyed on the ground 220 aircraft, shot ablaze 400 military vehicles and destroyed 51 big guns and 26 supply stores, 23 villages and 23 hamlets

with a population of 118,000 were liberated.

The guerilla and militia forces in Western Nam Bo (provinces west of Saigon), inside and outside various urban centres including Saigon—Gia Dinh, not only stood their ground but also operated in force behind enemy lines, exerting constant pressure on the enemy, testifying to the mighty combined strength of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces.

Meanwhile, the people's political forces have made new progress, vigorously and steadily pushing ahead the wide-spread uprising.

These new victories of the general offensive and wide-spread uprising have further strengthened the confidence of both the rural and urban populations in the future of the Revolution. In the towns, in face of the high costs of living and the rotten puppet regime, the people have felt deeper hatred for the aggressors and the traitors. They have seen more and more clearly the necessity to get us and to this puppet regime as soon as possible and, therefore, the

need to join the Revolution more actively.

*At present, both the U.S. and its henchmen are resorting to the most sophisticated psywar tricks to deceive the public.*

The U.S., after several years and many steps of war escalation, has not only failed to achieve the set strategic objectives, but also got into serious economic, financial and political troubles. Still, both the U.S. and its flunkies try to make believe that the U.S. has finally found out a "magic wand" enabling it to become stronger and more stable.

They also try to make believe that the U.S. fostered puppet army, after several "narrow escapes" which forced the U.S. to send hundreds of thousands of troops to its rescue, now suddenly becomes stronger and is going to carry the brunt of war for the GIs.

Obviously, Johnson, Humphrey; Nixon, Harriman and Abrams and their servants — the Thieu, Ky-Huong

*Mr. William S. ...*

*EM*



*U.S. tanks destroyed on Tay Ninh Front  
(Photo by Giai Phong Press Agency)*