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PLAF TENTH COMMUNIQUE - OCTOBER ~~XXXX~~ 1968

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

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SOUTH VIETNAM

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PLAF COMMAND ISSUES 10TH SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1610 GMT 13 Oct 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--The command of the South Vietnam 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. The communique, as released by LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY, follows:

Stunned by previous blows, the enemy had made every effort to put into practice his defense-in-depth strategy by urgently strengthening his defenses, launching successive police operations and sweeps, and increasing commando activity, air and artillery strikes, and wanton chemical spraying and B-52 bombings.

All this was aimed at carrying out Abrams' clear-and-hold strategy which is intended to stave off the collapse of the puppet administration and army. Still, the United States could not contain the general offensive and widespread uprising which is constantly gaining momentum in all parts of South Vietnam.

According to a still incomplete tally, the South Vietnam PLAF and people last August and September:

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

2--Shot down or destroyed on the ground 790 aircraft; destroyed over 3,000 military vehicles, including 1,685 tanks and armored personnel carriers; sank or set afire 158 gunboats, combat launches, and military cargo ships; wrecked 300 big guns, and burned down 75 ammunition and fuel storage areas;

3--Blew up nearly 100 bridges and razed to the ground over 200 posts and military subsectors.

These successes by far surpassed those in August and September 1967. They were 220 percent higher in enemy casualties, 160 percent in aircraft, 320 percent in tanks and armored troop carriers, 340 percent in big guns, and so forth.

Thus, in the 8 months ending with September, the PLAF and people in South Vietnam 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 or heavily decimated four armored regiments, two infantry regiments, one multi-battalion paratroop unit, and 167 battalions, and completely wiped out 17 armored groups and nearly 79 companies.

Also in these 8 months, the PLAF 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 armored cars. They also sank or set afire over 700 gunboats, combat launches, and military transport ships.

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

Faced with a situation in which U.S. defeat is obvious and the puppet administration has become extremely rotten, people with some national spirit cannot help thinking, worrying about their fate, and wanting to find a bright path. Taking advantage of these favorable conditions to actively carry out the military proselytizing task, we will be able to worsen enemy contradictions, paralyze the puppet troops' morale, and cause their rapid disintegration, thereby creating favorable conditions to score even greater victories.

Since the NFLSV proclaimed its eight policies toward members of the puppet army and administration, the military proselytizing task has further developed. Everywhere, our three troop categories and millions of our compatriots have taken full advantage of all opportunities to creatively devise ways of directing sharp military proselytizing wedges into the puppet army's ranks. The military proselytizing task has achieved successes of highly important political significance, proving that our southern armed forces and people possess boundless capabilities and extensive valuable experience to accelerate the military proselytizing offensive prong and to drive the puppet army rapidly toward collapse.

In the present situation proselytizing work must be given even more attention and further upheld. By combining it with combat to intensify disintegration of the puppet army, we shall cripple one of the two enemy strategic military forces and do away with the prop for his neocolonialist policy. It is not only a revolutionary requirement, but also a real possibility. It is not only one of four basic principles of political work, but also an urgent task--a task of strategic significance in the present revolutionary struggle in the south.

In order to continue accelerating proselytizing work, the PLAF must consider it as important as fighting. Mobile main forces should pay much attention to proselytizing work in combat. Together with fighting well, cadres and combatants must know how to cling to a favorable opportunity in order to make a timely appeal to enemy troops to lay down their weapons. They must implement well the policy toward captured or surrendering enemy troops. When preparing for combat, commanding cadres must closely work with local organizations and people in order to coordinate military and political offensives must closely and carefully. Under all circumstances each cadre or combatant must struggle to propagate the Front's policy toward puppet troops and puppet administrative employees, as well as toward the families of enemy troops.

Such armed performances as surrounding outposts to force their occupants to surrender or withdraw, using fifth columnists to annihilate the enemy or attack him politically, accelerating desertion or disintegration, and providing effective armed support for dissidence, armed revolt, or uprising must be further accelerated. Militiamen and guerrillas are in a position to attack the enemy on three fronts--the armed, political, and proselytizing fronts--right in their villages or hamlets, and to engage in their activities in areas deep in the enemy's rear.

Every combatant, militiaman, or guerrilla must be a good proselytizing combatant. He must actively carry propaganda to and motivate enemy troops and their families, creating every condition for contact with those in the enemy ranks who have a patriotic spirit in order to coordinate enemy-annihilating plans. Our people's anti-U.S. national salvation struggle is now entering a period of extremely seething and decisive consecutive attacks and uprisings. Each wave of attacks and uprisings of our armed forces and people has destroyed and carried away a big chunk of the puppet army.

The Americans are trying to help the puppets, but even if they had hundreds of means and thousands of plans they could not save the puppet army from total collapse. In combination with combat, the PLAF must further intensify proselytizing work, develop its superiority of having a just cause, and further deepen the enemy's basic political and spiritual weakness in order to cause his ranks to disintegrate and advance toward winning new and even greater victories.

FORMER SAIGON TROOPS CONDEMN WAR CRIMES

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0500 GMT 12 Oct 68 S

[Text] Faced with the towering crimes of the U.S.-puppets against our compatriots, leaders of the association of the 1st Division officers and men seceding from the puppet Thieu-Ky authorities held a conference and issued the following statement:

Faced with the thunderous attacks of the southern armed forces and people, the U.S. aggressors and their Thieu-Ky lackeys are in a state of serious defeat, in a predicament, and in a stalemate in all fields. Their "search and destroy" and "pacification" strategies face complete bankruptcy.

In their agony, they have frantically put into practice a new and passive strategy called "sweep and hold," carrying out the most cruel, savage, and amoral tricks in the history of mankind. They have used a large quantity of bombs, bullets, and poison to wantonly massacre our compatriots, resorting to the very savage massacre methods of the Middle Ages, such as disembowelling victims, cutting off their heads and fixing them on spikes, and tying living beings to moving cars regardless of the victims' age, wealth, or religion, or if they are parents or relatives of officers, soldiers, or civil servants of the puppet army and administration.

They have used a large quantity of bombs and bullets as well as convoys of armored vehicles and bulldozers to level entire areas of our native land and country, razing pagodas and temples of Buddhist compatriots and churches of Catholic compatriots, crushing our ancestors' tombs, and destroying paddyfields, gardens, and property of every strata of people, including families whose members are collaborating with them in the puppet army and administration.

Along with massacring our compatriots and destroying their property, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys have resorted to every means to concentrate our compatriots, including militarymen's relatives and parents, forcing them to live in concentration camps so that they can oppress and exploit them.

These U.S.-puppet crimes are seriously threatening the lives, property, and everything most precious and sacred to all strata of our people, our native land, and our nation. Everyone of us--whether we are rich or poor, Buddhist or Catholic, civil servants or militarymen, living or dead--cannot hope to live safely under their regime.

We officers and men of the association of the seceding 1st Division men vehemently denounce, before domestic and foreign public opinion, the innumerable, towering U.S.-puppet crimes against our compatriots, our native land, and our country.

~~The PLAF intercepted them, destroying 30. The Binh Long armed forces and people completely destroyed 52 enemy tanks and armored vehicles when they left Loc Ninh to try to rescue friendly units. The PLAF violently attacked the enemy on Road 22, destroying an entire convoy of 120 vehicles, including 34 tanks. On Road 20, the Tay Ninh armed forces and people attacked the enemy seven times and won gloriously seven times, destroying almost 200 enemy tanks and armored vehicles.~~

Successively defeating the enemy counterattacks in Duc Lap and ambushing the enemy four times on the Mang Gia mountain pass, the Darlac and Gia Lai armed forces and people, in cooperation with the Kontum armed forces and people, destroyed 98 enemy tanks and armored vehicles in September.

In coordination with the PLAF main-force units, regional and guerrilla forces have emulated in destroying U.S.-puppet tanks and armored vehicles. On 6 September, regional forces in (?Plei Guong), a suburban area of Pleiku, destroyed seven tanks and armored vehicles, annihilating one U.S. platoon in only 5 minutes. On 17, 23, and 31 August, highland guerrillas, using mines, destroyed 156 enemy tanks and armored vehicles.

Over the past 2 months, the U.S. aggressors' extensive efforts to apply the tactics of using tanks and armored vehicles in mobile defense and in defense-in-depth have been continuously frustrated. Many U.S.-puppet units have carried out collective antiwar actions, refusing to mount M-113 armored vehicles to go to the rescue of their friendly units. Such was the case with the U.S.-puppet troops stationed in Hau Nghia and Duc Lap who said: Even M-41 tanks have been blown to bits. How could we survive if we ride armored vehicles?

At the Cam Le bridge area, a number of soldiers of the puppet 39th Ranger Battalion staged a mutiny, destroying three M-113 armored vehicles, annihilating 54 troops on the vehicles, and returning to the people. In the PLAF's attacks along routes 26, 13, and 22 in Suoi Ong Hung, and in other areas, many enemy armored soldiers abandoned their tanks and armored vehicles and fled.

With the elan of their repeated victories throughout the south and developing their ability to attack enemy tanks and armored vehicles, the PLAF will deal more thunderous blows at the so-called "solid spot" of the U.S. infantry troops and will make the U.S. aggressors unable to reverse their situation, despite their large numbers of tanks and armored vehicles. Abrams, a famous U.S. tank general officer commanding the U.S. aggressive troops in Vietnam, will be increasingly known as a "tank-barbecuing" general.

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0609 GMT 14 Oct 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--Reality on the South Vietnam battlefield proves that the U.S. strategic position is fast worsening, says the Hanoi army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in its editorial today in connection with the 10th communique of the PLAF command.

According to the communique, the armed forces and people in South Vietnam in August and September:

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

2--Shot down or destroyed on the ground 790 aircraft; destroyed over 3,000 military vehicles, including 1,685 tanks and armored personnel carriers; sank or shot ablaze 158 combat launches and military cargo ships; and

3--Blew up nearly 100 bridges and razed to the ground over 200 posts and military subsectors.

In its editorial today, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN points out: In the rainy season this year, the armed forces and people in South Vietnam have attacked the enemy unremittingly, on a large scale, and with an all-time high efficiency and a good combination of armed attacks and popular uprisings, big, medium, and small-sized attacks, in both urban and rural areas.

The editorial continues: Many good attacks were conducted in the past 2 months on the South Vietnam battlefield. The best of them were directed against the enemy around Saigon and in central Vietnam as typified by the ones in Tay Ninh Province and the Da Nang area. The editorial points out that these big victories further proved the great capacity of the revolutionary forces and the new weaknesses of the enemy.

It says: Having suffered stunning blows early this spring, the U.S. aggressors tried to strengthen their defenses and sought every means to check the general offensive and widespread uprising of the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces and people. They switched all their forces to the defensive. But the more the enemy recoiled, the tighter the encirclement of the people's war around them.

In the past 2 months, the enemy lost another big part of their crack forces and war means, and despite their feverish effort at replenishment, it is now impossible for them to keep their strength and combat ability from decreasing.

The U.S.-puppet defenses are shaking, both on the inner and outer lines. They have collapsed at many places, very important ones. Moreover, the U.S. defense system has shown many weak points: It cannot ensure security at the same time to both U.S. troops and the puppet army, the towns and the countryside, the inner and the outer defense lines.

The editorial continues: Facts on the battlefields have proven the very low quality of the U.S. defensive strategy. U.S. forces have suffered heavy losses right at their strongest positions, such as the military complex in Da Nang.

They have thought better of launching major operations against long-term attacks by the PLAF on such an important theater as Tay Ninh, next door to Saigon. The most crack units of the United States--the spirit of the mobile defensive--have all been hard hit and badly mauled. Many mixed units and tactical units of the United States have been wiped out.

Facts in the fight have also proven that the U.S. strategic position has gone from bad to worse. The U.S. aggressors have sunk deeper into their passivity, passively waiting for more attacks and encirclements, unable to do anything in self-defense.

The editorial continues: Through a series of successive, powerful, simultaneous attacks in the last 2 months, the South Vietnamese revolutionary forces have developed vigorously. The more they fight, the greater their capacity. The ability of the three kinds of people's armed forces in annihilation tactics has visibly heightened. In many areas, particularly in Tay Ninh, the people's main forces have made striking progress in their capacity to conduct successive attacks and in their combat efficiency.

Alongwith the new military victories, the tide of popular political struggle is surging. The political force of the South Vietnam revolution has swollen and the people have further extended and consolidated their power. Revolutionary power at various levels has been established in vast areas. All this has provided a firm basis for winning complete power in South Vietnam.

The editorial stresses: The situation in embattled South Vietnam has further proven this irrefutable truth: The balance of forces between the revolution keeps tipping in favor of the South Vietnamese people. The process of general offensive and uprising in South Vietnam are developing favorably, vigorously, and steadily, the editorial concludes.

NHAN DAN

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0415 GMT 14 Oct 68 S

[14 October NHAN DAN editorial: "An Autumn of Great Victories"]

[Text] In autumn this year, new, glorious armed exploits have been recorded in the history of the southern armed forces' and people's struggle. It is an autumn seething with a revolutionary offensive impetus, a season in which the combatants and compatriots of the vast heroic frontline, responding to President Ho's appeal and the NFLSV Central Committee's statement, have enthusiastically scored achievements to commemorate the three great holidays--19 August, 2 September, and 23 September--through waves of vigorous offensives and uprisings on all battlefields.

Enemy-annihilating gunfire has been resounding throughout the south, from northern Quang Tri to Ca Mau and from the Trung Bo delta to the western highlands, eastern Nam Bo, and the Mekong Delta. The entire south has been shaken by fierce attacks on all fronts. The most outstanding attacks took place in Tay Ninh, Binh Long, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Ben Tre, My Tho, Gia Lai, and Darlac.

All battlefields have echoed with the armed exploits of the southern armed forces and people, attacking hundreds of cities and enemy military bases, outstandingly raiding enemy positions in Cha La, Tra Phi, Ben Cui, (Ketikerong), Non Nuoc, Go Huynh, Binh Liem, and Cho Dinh, countering enemy counterattacks in A Shau and A Luoi, in the Cam Le bridge area, and in Hoi An and Tam Ky, attacking enemy communication lines along routes 19, 14, 4, 22, and 26 and along the Giong Trom, Long Tau, and Ham Luong rivers, and encircling and annihilating the enemy at many Special Forces camps, such as Duc Lap, Thuong Duc, and others.

Emphasizing the autumn combat achievements of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, the PLAF command's communique No 10 pointed out that in August and September, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people annihilated or captured 123,000 enemy troops, including 45,000 U.S. and satellite troops. In terms of units, they knocked out a U.S. reinforced brigade, annihilated or badly mauled two infantry regiments, 44 U.S.-puppet battalions and 175 companies, downed or destroyed 790 aircraft, destroyed 3,000 military vehicles, including 1,685 tanks and armored cars, sank or set ablaze 158 boats or junks, destroyed 75 ammunition and oil depots, blasted nearly 100 bridges, and razed more than 200 military posts and subsectors. These significant figures faithfully reflect the victorious fighting of the great frontline.

Overcoming all difficulties resulting from weather and frenzied enemy reactions, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have scored greater victories this fall than previously. The achievements this August and September have surpassed all those scored during the same period in 1967: twice as much enemy manpower annihilated, 1.5 times more aircraft downed or destroyed, three times as many tanks, armored cars, and artillery pieces destroyed, and so forth.

August and September are also months of outstanding achievements made during the general offensive and concerted uprisings. In these 2 months, annihilation of enemy manpower equaled four-fifths of that annihilated in the first 45 days of the general offensive and concerted uprisings and 1.7 times that in May, when the most violent battles took place. Combat achievements this fall mark a new combat progress of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people.

As communique No 10 of the PLAF command has pointed out, this new progress is:

1--The southern armed forces and people have annihilated an important part of the enemy forces and dealt fierce blows at the most seasoned U.S.-puppet forces, composed of mobile regiments and battalions, strategic and tactical reserve forces, artillery and armored positions, and so forth.

2--The southern armed forces and people have developed and consolidated their initiative by launching comprehensive attacks. They have continually launched strong attacks everywhere. They have encircled and isolated the enemy on all battlefields.

3--The PLAF's three troop categories have become increasingly stronger through combat. Their combat qualities and efficiency have been increasingly heightened. The people's political forces have made steady, strong, and firm progress. They have launched political attacks and uprisings in cities as well as rural areas. They have developed and consolidated their right of mastership over many areas at different levels.

The autumn feats of arms are additional strong blows at the heads of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. They have further bolstered the great comprehensive victories achieved by the southern armed forces and people since the beginning of the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings.

In the past 8 months, our combatants and compatriots have scored outstanding performances, annihilating and capturing over half-a-million enemy troops, including 180,000 U.S. and satellite troops.

In term of units, they have knocked out a reinforced U.S. brigade; annihilated and heavily decimated six infantry and armored regiments, a paratroop combat group, 167 battalions, 17 armored squadrons, and about 700 U.S., puppet, and satellite companies; downed and destroyed over 5,000 planes; destroyed over 10,000 military vehicles, including 6,000 tanks and armored vehicles; sunk and burned over 700 warships, boats, transportation ships, and so forth. Thus, the number of enemy troops annihilated in the past 8 months is tantamount to 40 percent of the enemy troops in the south. The number of destroyed planes and military vehicles has surpassed their existing capital on the battlefield.

Thanks to these performances, the southern armed forces and people have quickly tipped the balance of power between us and the enemy in our favor, thus creating a big leap forward for the revolution. The new situation on the battlefield, inaugurated in early spring of this year, has developed along this line: Our victories have become increasingly big while enemy defeats have become increasingly heavier. The enemy's defeated situation has been reflected not only in the fact that enemy military forces have been annihilated in increasingly large numbers, but also in many other aspects--especially by the bankruptcy of all his objectives and schemes.

Hit by deadly blows in the early spring general offensive and concerted uprisings of the southern armed forces and people, the U.S. aggressors were compelled to forego the seek-and-destroy and pacification strategy started by four-star General Westmoreland, replacing it with Abrams' clear-and-hold strategy. This new strategy is a passive, defensive one, whose objective is to prevent U.S. troops from being annihilated in great numbers too rapidly so that they may continue playing the key role in the war. The clear-and-hold strategy is also designed to prevent a collapse of the puppet army and administration and to defend positions of strategic significance to the U.S. war of aggression.

The U.S. aggressors' plot is to keep their military and political situation from worsening while gradually improving it in the hope of finding a way out of the currently stalemated war of aggression. To implement the clear-and-hold strategy, they have actively built defense lines around cities and military bases, (concentrated) infantry, artillery, and mechanized forces in vital areas, launched clearing operations in an attempt to push the liberation war away from the cities, while waging police operations in the cities to repress people in revolt. They have also relied on the strong firepower of the air force, namely B-52's, and artillery and on the high mobility of aircraft and mechanized vehicles to perpetrate ruthless acts of destruction to check the PLAF's attacks.

However, all schemes and tricks of the U.S. aggressors have encountered the resistance of our armed forces and people. The southern armed forces' and people's autumn feats of arms prove that the U.S. clear-and hold strategy will not avoid tragic failure. On the battlefield, the U.S.-puppet forces continue to be annihilated by chunks, and their morale is declining. Their defense lines have been broken relentlessly.

People's armed activities have been carried out strongly in various cities, including Saigon and Da Nang. Enemy strategy has been worsening and his troops disposition is permanently upset. The conflict between occupation and mobility tactics and between dispersion and concentration tactics has been felt more strongly. Because they have experienced a strategic stalemate, the U.S. aggressors have failed to devise efficient tactics. Their armored personnel carriers, heliborn, and small river fleet tactics have been defeated successively.

Abram's defensive tactics using armored cars and heavy pounding with B-52 Stratofortresses have also failed to achieve what had been expected.

The political situation of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen is no less tragic. Despite the repeated resuscitating injections given it by the U.S. aggressors, the puppet administration, at all echelons, continues to become rotten and disintegrated. The top level of the puppet administration is being torn by a series of contradictions. The national reconciliation label set forth by the Thieu-Huong clique to gather supporters and create a new prop can fool no one. The contradictions among U.S. leading circles and those between U.S. bosses and their satellites on a way out of the deadlocked war have become ever more acute.

The American people's antiwar movements continue to develop. Never before has the White House been so deserted and dreary as now. While the U.S. aggressors are caught in an overall stalemate, the South Vietnam armed forces and people are strongly and steadily advancing with a victorious impetus. The new forces and new abilities born from the early spring general offensive and concerted uprising have continued to develop. They have acquired increasingly rich experience in staging offensives and uprisings. With their firm position and powerful strength, the southern armed forces and people possess every favorable condition to move toward winning even greater victories and final victory.

Made public simultaneously with the northern armed forces' and people's armed exploits in downing 3,200 U.S. aircraft, the southern armed forces' and people's autumn armed exploits are strong encouragement. They have stirred great enthusiasm among our combatants and compatriots countrywide, urging the southern armed forces and people to take advantage of their victories to advance, launch relentless offensives, and stage concerted uprisings, smash the puppet army, and overthrow the puppet administration, crush the U.S. imperialists' aggressive determination, and restore full power to the people. (communique No 10)

They encourage the northern armed forces and people to be determined, for the kith and kin south, to fulfill the vast rear base's duty toward the vast frontline, and to enthusiastically emulate in scoring the greatest achievements in combat and production and in organizing the people's way of life. The nearer victory, the greater efforts we must make. Although the U.S. imperialists have suffered serious defeats, they remain very stubborn. Although we possess highly favorable conditions, we are encountering certain difficulties in our advance. For the independence and freedom of the fatherland, our compatriots and combatants countrywide are unanimously united and determined to firmly maintain and vigorously step up the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance and lead it to complete victory.