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MORE ON PLAF COMMAND'S 10TH SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE

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Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0500 GMT 13 Oct 68 S

[10th communique of the PLAF Command; for Hanoi VNA version see p II. L 1 of the 14 October DAILY REPORT]

[Text] Since early spring, with the might of the twisting Truong Son mountains and the angry Mekong River, our southern armed forces and people have launched repeated attacks and staged simultaneous uprisings, continually achieving brilliant victories.

In August and September, our offensive went on boisterously and fiercely on all battlefields, giving more meaning to the historic autumn of our country. After receiving heavy blows in early spring, the U.S.-puppets hastily adopted a strategic defensive position throughout the south. But the revolutionary storms in May warned them that their defense measures would not be able to stop the waves of attacks and uprisings of our armed forces and people. Faced with the danger of being hit by new and fiercer blows, they made every effort to put into practice the so-called defense-in-depth strategy by urgently strengthening their defense system of clusters of key positions and belts, launching successive police operations and sweeps, and increasing commando activity, air and artillery strikes, wanton chemical spraying, and B-52 bombings.

All the most seasoned U.S.-puppet units, all the most modern means of war, all the vilest and craftiest psychological warfare tricks, all the most brazen conscription measures, and so forth, were used to cope with the attacks of our southern armed forces and people. All this was aimed at carrying out Abrams' hold-and-clear strategy in order to maintain the dying puppet administration and stop the disintegration of the puppet army--tools serving the U.S. imperialists' plots.

With their very stubborn and aggressive nature, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys carried out their defense plan quite carefully, using more than 1 million troops and tens of thousands of planes, tanks, and pieces of artillery. Yet they could not check the storm of general offensive and simultaneous uprisings of our armed forces and people, which was constantly gaining momentum.

Responding to the appeals of President Ho and the NFLSV Central Committee to resolutely score outstanding performances to commemorate the anniversary of 3 glorious historic days--19 August, 2 September, and 23 September --in August and September our southern armed forces and people took advantage of past victories to advance and continually deal appropriate punitive blows at the enemy. Everywhere, our units did their best to achieve exploits. Victories were repeatedly achieved on all battlefields.

The armed forces and people in mountainous areas won glorious victories in Tay Ninh, Binh Long in eastern Nam Bo, Duc Lap, (Cotoprong) and (Chapra) in the high plateau, Thuong Duc in Quang Nam Province, Con Tien and Gioc Mieu in the Tri-Thien area, and so forth. Those in the lowlands also won glorious victories, in the border areas and in Tri-Thien in central Trung Bo as well as at Ben Tre, My Tho, Vinh Long, and Can Tho in the Mekong delta.

It called for the holding throughout the country of a campaign to demand an unconditional halt to the bombing of the DRV and to the U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

Meetings were held on 28 and 19 October [as received] by the peace committees in Paris, Van de Marne, Seine Saint-Denis, and at the Renault factory, to open a solidarity and fundraising campaign for Vietnam.

In the United Arab Republic, a 4,000-strong rally was held on 21 October at the combinat in Giza by the local executive committee of the Arab Socialist Union and the peace council and the UAR's Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Committee.

A meeting held on 19 October at Alexandria port passed a resolution urging the United States to cease its war in Vietnam, bring home American and satellite troops, recognize the NPLSV, and talk with it on problems concerning South Vietnam. The resolution stressed that, first and foremost, the United States should halt unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war throughout North Vietnam.

A photo exhibition on the Vietnamese people's fight and production was held in Cairo on 19 October on this occasion.

On 21 October, Radio Cairo broadcast a special program on South Vietnamese hero Nguyen Van Troi, whose fourth death anniversary fell on 15 October.

Closing the week of solidarity with Vietnam in Syria, many representatives of the Damascus people held a meeting during which the U.S. war in Vietnam was strongly condemned. The representatives of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee and the General Federation of Trade Unions of Syria took the floor to reaffirm the Syrian people's sympathy with and support for the Vietnamese peoples' struggle against U.S. aggression for national salvation.

On this occasion, a message of solidarity with the Vietnamese youth has been sent by the Youth League of the Tanganyika African National Union. The message expressed indignation at the U.S. aggression in Vietnam, praised the fighting spirit of the Vietnamese youth, and reaffirmed the Tanganyikan youths' support for Vietnam.

At a meeting held on 20 October in Helsinki by the Finnish committee of friendship with the Vietnamese people, the participants demanded that the United States stop bombing the DRV and withdraw its troops from South Vietnam. Afterwards, they held a protest march on the U.S. Embassy.

The central council of peace fighters in Finland has issued an appeal calling on the Finnish people to increase all activities supporting peace and peace and independence in Vietnam and to raise funds to assist the Vietnamese people.

A solidarity week was held in Copenhagen with the opening of an exhibition on the Vietnamese peoples' struggle against U.S. aggression, fundraising art performances in public squares, and showing of a documentary film on worldwide solidarity with Vietnam.

In Norway, the solidarity week ended with a torch procession and meeting in support of Vietnam. A collection drive for Vietnam was held during the week in Oslo together with the publication of the first issue of the Magazine for Vietnam by the Norway Committee of Solidarity With Vietnam and a pamphlet featuring the political program of the NPLSV.

The exploit-earning shots resounded in Saigon, Cholon, and Gia Dinh, as well as at Da Nang, Dalat, Phan Rang, and Phan Thiet. The thunder of the attacks of our armed forces and people hit the enemy communication lines, from the Long Tau, Ham Luong, and Giong Trom rivers to roads 1,4,22,15,14,19, and so forth. These repeated and brilliant victories of our armed forces and people on all battlefields constitute a resounding chorus.

According to a still incomplete tally, last August and September our southern armed forces and people killed, wounded, or captured more than 123,000 enemy troops, including 45,000 U.S. and satellite troops, crippled a reinforced U.S. brigade; wiped out or heavily depleted two infantry regiments, 44 battalions, and 175 planes of different types; destroyed more than 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 mortars; burned down 75 ammunition and fuel storage areas; blew up nearly 100 bridges; and razed to the ground more than 200 posts and military subsectors.

These successes by far surpassed those in August and September of 1967. They were 220 percent greater in terms of enemy casualties, 160 percent greater in terms of aircraft, 320 percent greater in terms of tanks and armored troops carriers, 340 percent greater in terms of big guns, and so forth. Thus, in the 8 months of general offensive and simultaneous uprisings since early spring, our armed forces and people have killed, wounded, or captured more than half a million enemy troops, including 180,000 U.S. and satellite troops; crippled a reinforced U.S. brigade; annihilated or decimated four armored regiments, two infantry regiments, one multibattalion paratroop unit, and 167 battalions; completely wiped out 17 armored groups and nearly 700 U.S., puppet, and satellite companies; downed or wrecked on the ground more than 5,000 planes of different types; destroyed more than 10,000 military vehicles, among them more than 6,000 tanks and armored cars; and sank or set afire some 7000 gunboats, combat launches, and military transport ships, and so forth.

These figures reflect the tremendous development of the southern revolution in the present phase of general offensive and simultaneous uprisings. At the same time, they are firm warnings to the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys that the more strongly they squirm to avoid defeat, the greater will be their defeats. The boiling, fierce, and passionate struggle of our armed forces and people in the last 2 months has not only further consolidated our existing strongpoints on the battlefield, but has also created new factors for winning yet bigger and all-round victories.

1--As far as the destruction of enemy forces and war equipment is concerned, we scored extremely great achievements, which have elated the armed forces and people countrywide and our friends worldwide. These achievements are highly valuable, because our armed forces and people scored them under extremely difficult and desperate conditions.

The great majority of enemy troops put out of action last August and September belonged to the crack units of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, such as the U.S. 1st and 25th infantry divisions, the Marine Division [as heard], the Air Cavalry Division, the Americal Division, and the 11th Independent Armored Regiment, and puppet main-force units and various battalions of the puppet general reserve. For the first time, the Thai satellite troops also lost an entire 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 including a U.S. reinforced brigade, were completely destroyed or decimated. Many artillery bases, armored vehicles, parking areas, strongholds, and convoys of vehicles and vessels were completely destroyed in lightning attacks. Many enemy generals and field grade officers were killed in action.

These facts proved that our achievements were extremely brilliant. They further worsened the difficulties encountered by the enemy in troop strength and materiel. As a result, the enemy's organization became more shabby and patched-up, his combat quality further declined, his mobility decreased, his fighting morale sagged further, his basic weaknesses developed more rapidly, and his temporary strongpoints became highly restricted. These favorable conditions have offered extremely bright, new prospects for our armed forces' and people's struggle in the days ahead.

2--Our armed forces' and people's initiative in attack has become steadier and has developed more comprehensively than ever. On the battlefield, the further the enemy retreated, the further our armed forces and people advanced, the more vigorously they attacked him everywhere, and the more deeply he was driven into a passive defensive position. With their increasingly versatile armed and political forces, our armed forces and people created a people's war situation in which they tightly encircled and divided enemy forces, thus constantly menacing the cities and provincial and district capitals, inside and from the outside.

Though trying to hold out in heavily defended positions, the enemy was unable to avoid attacks in diversified forms in cities and towns and along communications lines. The people's guerrilla war movement continued to develop far and wide in enemy rear areas. In Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh, our armed forces and people daily carried out extremely daring armed and political activities and, in some cases, punished a hundred tyrants right in the heart of cities. The enemy was also struck in nearly all other important provincial capitals and townships. Even though the enemy had retreated into his dens, our armed forces and people were fully capable of spreading him out to attack him and dragging him out to annihilate him. Even his dens were threatened more and more seriously and continuously attacked.

The greater their initiative on the battlefield, the more favorable were the conditions our armed forces and people acquired to create the surprise factor, to take advantage of the enemy's vulnerable points, and to expose him to new vulnerable points, in order to win the greatest victories. Never before in the middle of the rainy season had our armed forces and people taken the initiative in attacking the enemy everywhere and as vigorously and continuously and winning such great, comprehensive, and resounding victories as they have this year. This has further demonstrated the fact that we have acquired an increasingly firm and powerful position, which no force can shake.

3--The more the PLAF fought, the greater their strength and the higher their combat skill and efficiency became. The people's political forces have also taken steady, vigorous steps forward.

In the past 2 months, many units fought for many days and nights in a row, flexibly and creatively using 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. Main-force units have played their role of dealing the main punch on the battlefield.

In 5 weeks of continuous fighting, the people's armed forces in Tay Ninh Province crippled a U.S. reinforced brigade. In addition, they wiped out a number of U.S. troops equivalent to the actual combat strength of an infantry division, the number of U.S. battalions destroyed exceeded the total number of battalions of a U.S. infantry division. The number of armored vehicles destroyed equaled the total fleet of a U.S. motorized infantry division, and the number of artillery pieces wrecked far exceeded the artillery strength of a U.S. infantry division. The Tay Ninh PLAF also wiped out or heavily decimated several battalions of the puppet main force and general reserve.

In less than a month, the PLAF in the plains of central Trung Bo killed, wounded, or captured over 16,700 U.S., puppet, and satellite troops. In terms of units, they wiped out six battalions and 26 companies and decimated one regiment, one multi-battalion ranger unit, and nine battalions. They shot down or destroyed on the ground 120 aircraft, set afire 400 military vehicles, and destroyed 51 big guns and 16 supply depots. Thirteen villages and 51 hamlets with a population of 118,000 were liberated.

Guerrilla and militia forces in Western Nam Bo, operating in and around urban centers such as Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh not only stood their ground, but also operated in force behind enemy lines, exerting constant pressure on the enemy and testifying to the mighty combined strength of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces. Meanwhile, the people's political forces made new progress, vigorously and steadily pushing ahead the widespread uprising.

These new victories of the general offensive and widespread uprising have further strengthened the confidence of both the rural and urban populations in the future of the revolution and made them struggle more and more actively in order to rapidly attain revolutionary objectives. In the towns, the people have everyday encountered more and more difficulties in their livelihood, due to increasingly higher costs of living.

The urban people have been daily spied upon, controlled, and harassed by hooligans. The ringleaders and their subordinates in the puppet administration have resorted to all tricks of bribery, theft, and blackmail to harm the urban people who have, therefore, seen more and more clearly the vile, dirty face of the country-invaders and country-sellers, felt a deeper hatred for the aggressors and traitors, and seen more and more clearly the need to put an end to the rotten puppet administration and to join the revolution more actively.

In the country, the cruel U.S.-puppet attack with B-52 bombings, shellings, chemical spraying, tanks, and so forth, have made our compatriots arise vigorously. Our rural compatriots, who have doomed all enemy plots and weapons for decades, have been more and more forged in fighting and have further deepened their hatred and acquired greater experiences in struggle. Our people's increasingly great political enlightenment is an inexhaustible source of strength for the general offensive and concerted uprisings in the south.

In the past 2 months, along with their big military victories, the people throughout South Vietnam have at varying degrees strengthened and developed their mastership. In Tay Ninh, large-scale struggle movements have attracted tens of thousands of Cao Dai compatriots and terrified the enemy. In Da Nang tens of thousands of compatriots rose vigorously, punished hooligans, and gained the mastership of 20 wards.

Compatriots everywhere have arisen vigorously to struggle, annihilated spies, smashed the civilian self-defense organization, and opposed conscription and terrorism. Our compatriots' uprising movement has helped revolutionary administration to be established in many areas and has laid an important foundation for our compatriots to advance toward seizing the entire administration for the people.

The uprising movement has also vigorously attacked the puppet armed forces' ranks. In spite of U.S.-puppet threats, bribery, wage increments, and seduction, officers and men of the puppet army have seen more and more clearly the U.S.-puppet crimes and the heavy defeats and inevitable total failure of the United States. That is why mutinies, revolts, and collective desertions of puppet soldiers have increased in score and numbers.

Faced with our armed forces' and people's powerful offensive in the last 2 months, sinister enemy schemes have met one failure after another. Abrams' hold-and-clear and defense-in-depth strategy is going disastrously bankrupt. The U.S. aggressors and their lackeys can neither avert their collapse, nor dam our armed forces' and people's offensive and uprising movement.

All the trump cards of Abrams, such as aircraft, tanks, artillery guns, toxic chemicals, defense lines, fire support and operational bases, and especially B-52's have proved ineffective. The enemy is at a loss to choose between keeping his forces to defend the cities and sending them out to ward off our forces' blows in the surrounding areas. Enemy forces have been spread so thin that they have had to foolhardily send company-seized units to hold isolated enclaves in the flaming sea of our people's war.

Abrams once criticized Westmoreland's strategies and tactics. But today Abrams himself has encountered even more disastrous failures than Westmoreland's. The enemy wanted to reduce his losses in manpower and war equipment, but tens of thousands of U.S., puppet, and satellite troops have had to pay off their crimes and thousands of military vehicles and vessels have been turned into scrap iron.

The U.S. aggressors wanted to keep the puppet army from disintegrating and to build it up in order to carry out the so-called de-Americanization of the war. But how can the ramshackle puppet army stand and take the blows for its U.S. masters?

They wanted to keep their dens safe from our artillery barrages by conducting a slander campaign [reference to reports of urban civilian casualties], but our people have clearly seen which is black and which is white and, as a result, have increased their hatred for the enemy in the face of his deceitful arguments and have become even more enthusiastic over the enemy's panic.

The U.S. aggressors wanted to keep the U.S.-puppet troops' morale from sagging, but never before has their inherently low morale been as low as it is now. More and more U.S. servicemen have realized the unjust and absurd character of the war and, as a result, violent antiwar actions have multiplied. The U.S. commanders have had to set up a score of prisons, detaining thousands of U.S. servicemen. But many of these prisons, such as those at Long Binh and Da Nang, have been violently ransacked by the inmates.

At present, both the U.S. masters and their henchmen are resorting to the most sophisticated psychological warfare tricks to deceive the public. The United States, after several years during which it has taken many piratical escalation steps, has not only failed to achieve its strategic objectives, but has fallen into serious economic, financial, and political troubles. Still, both the United States and its flunkys try to make believe that the United States has finally found a magic wand, enabling it to become stronger, more stable, and more victorious.

They also try to make believe that after several narrow escapes which forced the United States to send hundreds of thousands of troops to its rescue, the U.S.-fostered puppet army--composed of lazy soldiers specializing in pillage--is now suddenly becoming stronger and is going to carry the brunt of war for U.S. troops.

Obviously Johnson, Humphrey, Nixon, Harriman, Abrams, and their servants, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, are becoming the laughing stock of the world. They are trying to convince people that a rabbit is going to swallow a lion. For all their clamors, this fact remains clear: The United States and its puppets are in a blind alley, and their forces are wearing out. The U.S. colossus is staggering under the military, political, economic, and diplomatic blows of our armed forces and people throughout the country.

Like crabs in a hot pan, the United States and its puppets can neither find a way out nor quench the flames of the offensive and uprising of the southern revolution, now flaring up everywhere. Extremely stubborn by nature, they still hope to prolong their last days by committing new crimes. But the Vietnamese people warn the U.S. aggressors and their flunkys that ahead of them there is only one path: They will meet with heavier and more humiliating setbacks and ultimate total defeat.

Com patriots, cadres, and combatants, in the present war situation, we are able to launch all-out attacks in both military and political fields. We are able to attack permanently, continually, simultaneously, and uniformly on all battlefields. We are able to develop the combined strength of our three categories of troops, our three-pronged attacks everywhere. We have the power of our confidence in the revolution's victory, of an ever high fighting spirit, of a continually developed military and political force, and of continued mature leadership. We have the power of a constantly enlarging anti-U.S. national salvation front, of an ever close cooperation between the two regions in our sacred national salvation task, and of an ever support and aid from the socialist camp and world people.

Let us take advantage of our victories to surge forward during these extremely important moments of our history. Let us stubbornly step up our great anti-U.S. national salvation resistance by launching continuous attacks and simultaneous uprisings in order to crush the puppet army, overthrow the puppet administration, smash the U.S. imperialists' aggressive will, and wrest back the entire power for the people. Before us, the revolution's future lays wide open. Let us advance. Complete victory will surely be ours.

The PLAF Command; October 1968.

REPORTS ON PLAF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTH

Thuong Duc Camp

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0216 GMT 24 Oct 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--Tightening their encirclement around the U.S. Green Beret camp at Thuong Duc, Quang Nam Province, the People's Liberation Armed Forces in the week ending 18 October wiped out 365 enemy troops including more than 200 GI's, and set ablaze two planes, according to LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY.

Intercepting enemy reinforcements, the PLAF within 15 minutes at dawn on 12 October completely knocked out one company of the 2d Battalion, U.S. 5th Marine Regiment, killing or wounding 135 GI's. At the same time, they put out of action one puppet platoon on a nearby hill.

On 14 October, the PLAF inflicted heavy losses on one American company. On the following day, they killed or wounded 60 enemy. On 18 October, they knocked out 60 more enemy troops.

During the following 3 days, the PLAF mounted several attacks on enemy bivouacs around the besieged camp. The assaults on two enemy cantonments on Ba Mom hill on 15 October alone caused about 60 enemy casualties.

On 18 October, the United States claimed that the siege had been lifted but the same night the PLAF attacked anew, battering a U.S. company in Trang Choi area. Fighting with bayonets, automatic rifles, and grenades, the PLAF wiped out 60 enemy and set fire to 20 tents.

The following day, PLAF gunners heavily pounded U.S. reinforcements sent to the battle site, taking a heavy toll of enemy dead and wounded.

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY says that all told, from the beginning of the siege on 27 September to 18 October, the PLAF killed, wounded, or captured 724 enemy--among them over 400 GI's in Thuong Duc area.

Binh Thuan, Quang Tri

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1548 GMT 23 Oct 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--In the early hours of yesterday, the People's Liberation Armed Forces attacked the U.S. paratroopers near Phan Thiet, capital of Binh Thuan Province, and near Phu Bai base in Thua Thien Province, according to Western sources. At the same time, they assaulted Pak Chong-hui mercenaries near Hoi An, capital of Quang Nam Province.

Initial reports said they wiped out many enemy troops.