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VINH LINH COMMENDED FOR DOWNING 3,200TH PLANE

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0800 GMT 14 Oct 68 S

[Text] On the occasion of the downing by the Vinh Linh armed forces and people of the 3,200th U.S. aircraft over the north, the VPA high command recently sent them a congratulatory message. Following is its full text:

Dear compatriots and comrades, in the spirit of strong offensives and successive victories of the armed forces and people in both parts of our country, on 9 October 1968, the Vinh Linh armed forces and people scored a glorious achievement in downing the 3,200th U.S. aircraft over the north.

The VPA high command enthusiastically praises the Vinh Linh armed forces and people and enthusiastically praises the achievements of the armed forces and people of the fourth military zone who, in resolute and violent combat, upholding their brave and stalwart spirit, have defeated both the U.S. Air Force and Navy, valiantly overcome every difficulty in insuring communications and transport works, and wholeheartedly served the frontline, thus deservingly contributing to the victories of the armed forces and people nationwide.

The U.S. bandits and their lackeys are being heavily defeated by our armed forces and people, but they are still stubborn and are not yet willing to abandon their scheme for intensifying the aggressive war in the south and continuing to barbarously strike an important portion of the northern part of our country. Compatriots and armed forces in Vinh Linh, be constantly vigilant, ready to fight well and produce well, and be determined, together with the kith-and-kin southern armed forces and people, to defeat the U.S. bandits and their lackeys under any circumstances.