

W  
FILE SUBJ.  
DATE SUB-CAT.  
OCT 68

PLAF VICTORIES IN WATERWAYS OF SOUTH HAILED

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0555 GMT 21 Oct 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--The Hanoi daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in a commentary today highly praised the people's armed forces in Saigon-Gia Dinh for their new exploits on the waterways.

It was referring to the skillful ambushes against enemy water traffic on 4, 5, 9, and 10 October with the sinking or damaging of six enemy vessels, including a 13,000-ton tanker sent to the bottom right at the Nha Be harbor together with about 15 million liters of fuel and a 10,000-ton military cargo ship heavily damaged at the Cha La area some 22 kilometers southeast of Saigon.

The paper said: Water communications constitute an important component of the lifeline system of the U.S.-puppets. By striking at the enemy's river traffic, port facilities, and storages, the PLAF in Saigon-Gia Dinh have made an active contribution to crippling the enemy's supply lines and destroying their live force and war materiel.

It recalled the PLAF's recent victories in other parts of South Vietnam--among them the ambush on the Giong Trom River (Den Tre Province) on 2 October when the PLAF destroyed a whole convoy of 23 vessels transporting a U.S. battalion, wiping out more than 800 GI's.

The paper pointed out that despite the strictest security measures taken by the enemy in their defense-in-depth strategy, the U.S.-puppets in Saigon-Gia Dinh have continued to be exposed to daring, deadly attacks by the PLAF. The highly successful assaults, ambushes, and shellings by the PLAF and the raging guerrilla war in Saigon-Gia Dinh are increasing the enemy's confusion and predicament, the paper stressed in conclusion.