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GUERRILLA WAR SUCCESSES IN SOUTH RECALLED

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Oct 68 D

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN editorial: "The fantastic development of the guerrilla war in South Vietnam"]

[Text] The fourth conference on guerrilla warfare in South Vietnam opened solemnly and closed successfully in an enthusiastic atmosphere of victory and an effervescent revolutionary spirit. Representatives of various groups in the NFLSV and of the Liberation Armed Forces in various areas in the south reviewed the situation and evaluated the recent brilliant success of the guerilla war movement, especially during the high tide of the general offensive and uprising of the southern armed forces and people from early spring to date.

The conference discussed the very valuable experiences gained in each locality and noted the outstanding traits and the heroic, clever, and creative spirit of compatriots of both sexes and of all ages and nationalities in all regions--from the mountainous region to the delta and from the countryside to cities--who have won a glorious strategic position for the guerrilla war in this decisive phase of the resistance against the United States for national salvation.

Born and reared in the course of the revolutionary struggle movement of the people the guerrilla war in the south has gained valuable experience since the anti-French colonialist resistance and has made great progress in the course of the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation. The guerrilla war has annihilated an important part of the U.S. and puppet armed forces, thus contributing to the continuous defeat of the strategic role in the revolutionary armed struggle of the southern armed forces and people.

During the simultaneous uprising movement, the guerrilla war effectively supported the masses in rising up to smash the oppressive rule of the U.S. aggressors and their puppets in hamlets and villages. In the resistance against the special war of the United States and its stooges, the guerrilla war has been expanded everywhere. It has been closely coordinated with activities of the main and regional forces to annihilate the enemy and to destroy him by attrition and it has effectively supported the resistance movement, thus contributing in large measure to bringing about the collapse of the puppet administration and armed forces.

In the bitter fight against the regional war of the U.S. aggressors, the guerrilla war has developed strongly in accordance with regional characteristics and has satisfactorily fulfilled its strategic duties. The southern guerrilla forces have thrown up a belt of destruction around the U.S. forces. They have thwarted the sweeping tactics of the U.S. aggressors. They have destroyed the troops of the U.S. aggressors and their puppets by attrition and annihilated and scattered these troops. They have joined the people in baffling the enemy plan for rural pacification. They have helped defend and expand the liberated areas. They have fought in conjunction with the main and regional forces. They have stood side by side with the people in directly fighting the enemy in the rural and urban areas.

Actual facts about the revolutionary struggle in the south have demonstrated that the guerrilla warfare--one of the fundamental methods of this revolutionary struggle and one of the two basic military forms of the people's war--has achieved brilliant feats of arms which have made a worthy contribution to stepping up the anti-U.S., national salvation resistance of our people.

This war particularly true during the general offensive and simultaneous uprising--from the beginning of spring to date--when guerrilla war broke out fiercely on all battlefields in the south. In cities as well as in the rural areas, and especially in the Tri-Thien area and Nam Bo delta, the guerrillas have deservedly punished cruel agents and stubborn policemen and supported the compatriots in seizing power.

The guerrillas have adroitly carried out these tasks because they come from the local people, because they have taken firm hold of situation and acted quickly, and because they have been strongly supported by the people. On many fronts, the guerrillas, together with the people, have encircled and destroyed hundred of enemy posts, compelled the enemy to abandon their posts, and smashed strategic hamlets and concentration zones.

Indicative of the outstanding progress in combat abilities of the southern guerrillas in the fact that many guerrilla units and fighters have skillfully attacked U.S. tanks and armored vehicles and that guerrillas in many areas have shot down many enemy helicopters. Taking advantage of their topographical knowledge and relying on their valor, versatile wits, and improved equipment and weapons, the southern guerrillas have improved their combat efficiency, assumed a number of tasks of the regional forces, and inflicted heavy losses in manpower and war material of the enemy.

The guerrillas have been a threat to the enemy on all major and minor communication lines. They have attacked the major communication lines day and night and have closely controlled the waterways of the enemy. On many important portions of the vital strategic roads of the enemy--such as roads 1, 4, 9, 13, 14, and 19--the guerrillas have attacked the enemy positions, cut their communications, and thrown back enemy counterattacks to reopen these roads, thus isolating the enemy posts and lairs and creating unsurmountable difficulties for the enemy.

In areas adjoining cities and important bases of the enemy--especially in the vicinity of such major cities as Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, and Dalat--the guerrillas have successfully encircled major and minor bases of the enemy, thereby creating a stable operations area for the main force to attack enemy positions.

In these operations areas, the guerrillas have cooperated with the compatriots in rapidly building combat hamlets, villages, and wards, in attacking the enemy, in seizing the enemy's weapons and using them as their own equipment, in stepping up all forms of activity, and in constantly harassing the enemy with sniper fire, thereby creating constant tension and fear in the U.S. and puppet troops.

Closely cooperating with the main and regional forces, the guerrillas have continuously attacked and foiled enemy counterattacks and operations launched by the enemy to expand his position around towns, cities, and bases. In certain areas, such as Tay Ninh, Quang Nam, and Quang Ngai, the guerrillas have paralyzed the enemy's mobile forces and enabled the main force to attack and win great victories.

Moreover, the southern guerrillas have been very successful in proselytizing enemy troops, choosing battlesites, maintaining communications and relations, keeping supply routes from the rear to the front open, helping in the fighting, and transporting and caring for wounded fighters, thus making an important contribution to the common victories scored by the southern armed forces and people since last spring.

In the 9 months since the general offensive and simultaneous uprising, the southern guerrillas have matured very rapidly and further developed the guerrilla warfare movement, thereby making a very important contribution to the shaping of a new battle position and to the complete change of the battle situation. One of the significant strategic evolutions of the southern battlefield is the growth of the guerrillas and guerrilla warfare in all cities and their vicinity.

Thus, the guerrilla war movement has not only expanded everywhere, but has also established firm bases in key areas. As a result, the revolutionary war has been expanded into the cities and has continuously disturbed and shaken the last lairs of the U.S. aggressors and their puppets.

During the course of the general offensive and uprising, the guerrilla war has made a very important contribution to maintaining and developing our continuous offensive trend and has insured close and highly effective coordination in large, medium, and small-scale attacks. During the high tide of general offensive and uprising, the guerrilla force has been able to combine military and political struggle and propaganda among the enemy ranks.

The unprecedented and overall success gained by the southern armed forces and people during the general offensive and upheaval since the beginning of spring has created new possibilities and favorable conditions for stepping up the southern revolutionary war in general and the guerrilla war in particular. The fight of the southern armed forces and people during the present fierce phase requires the three services of the southern revolutionary armed forces to exert great effort, to continuously increase their fighting strength, their ability to fight without interruption, and their combat efficiency.

By capitalizing on their successes and applying the valuable experience drawn from the past, and especially the experience gained by the three flag-holding provinces of Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, and Thua Thien, the southern compatriots and fighters must do their best to mobilize the immense forces and the potential of the masses to carry the guerrilla warfare to its climax.

Fully aware of the guerrilla war tasks set forth by the conference [the fourth conference on guerrilla war throughout the south], the armed forces and people in the south must step up the building of a numerous, mature and strong guerrilla units everywhere.

They must continue to improve their equipment and raise the tactical and technical standards of the guerrilla force to insure that the guerrilla strength is maintained and capable of fulfilling all combat and construction norms, that it is worthy of its strategic mission in the revolutionary war, that it can greatly contribute to strongly and steadfastly advancing the fight of our armed forces and people to final success.