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11/68

COMMUNIQUE
OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY
HIGH COMMAND
ON
THE VICTORY
OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMED
FORCES AND PEOPLE OVER THE U.S.
IMPERIALISTS' WAR OF DESTRUCTION.

For more than four years, while intensifying their war of aggression in South Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists recklessly and frantically waged a war of destruction against the North in an attempt to retrieve their predicament in the South.

In execution of this strategic scheme they mobilized considerable air and naval forces, and used all kinds of modern equipment and techniques and countless savage methods in their round-the-clock attacks on the whole territory of North Viet Nam.

They committed to the Vietnamese battlefield a big air force with thousands of up-to-date planes. To strike at the North they employed more than forty types of aircraft ranging from the F. 105 and the F. 4 to the latest of their creations such as the swing-winged

F. III-A and the B. 52 strategic bomber. Since April 1968 American planes flew a monthly average of 10,000 sorties against Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces and Vinh Linh area.

In terms of naval forces, the U.S. imperialists had deployed the whole of the Seventh Fleet, their biggest, reinforced with many units of other fleets. Almost all their aircraft-carriers were commissioned in rotation.

For our fatherland's independence and freedom, for socialism our armed forces and people, united millions as one, have risen up valiantly to conduct an extensive and marvellous people's war. With courage and resourcefulness in fighting they have overcome all obstacles and hardships, foiled every step of war escalation, every scheme and manoeuvre of the enemy and **defeated the war of destruction of U.S. aggressor imperialism.**

In attacking the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the American imperialists committed extremely serious and ferocious war crimes :

They brazenly flouted international law and encroached upon a socialist country, an independent and sovereign one.

They cynically resorted to barbarous methods and weapons of all kinds, including steel-pellet, napalm and phosphorous bombs and toxic chemicals, to massacre our compatriots, and indiscriminately struck at schools, hospitals, churches, temples, pagodas, dykes, dams, etc.

They poured on the North of our country nearly one million tons of bombs and shells, more than the

amount used in the three years of the Korean War and many times more than that dropped on Japan during the Second World War.

The crimes they perpetrated against our people topped those of the Hitlerite fascists in ferocity. The Vietnamese people and progressive mankind will never forget these barbarous crimes. The U.S. imperialists will be condemned for ever by history.

The crueller they grew, the more the armed forces and people in both parts of our country hated them, the more closely we united, and the stronger was our resolve to defeat them.

By unleashing the war of destruction against North Viet Nam the U.S. imperialists believed they could intimidate our people and shake their determination to resist aggression, wreck socialist construction in the North, prevent the North Vietnamese from rendering active support to their kith and kin in the South, and boost the sinking morale of the puppet army and administration.

Facts, however, evolved altogether against their dark designs. All their basic strategic objectives were foiled. The more the U.S. imperialists struck at the North, the closer the blood-sealed relations between North and South became. The armed forces and people in the two zones have kept their pledge: "Whenever the South appeals the North responds; whenever the North appeals the South responds. For one blow the Americans invaders deliver at the North, the armed forces and people in the South will deal them five or ten in return." As a result, the U.S.

imperialists suffered a lamentable defeat in both parts of our country.

In the South, although they had brought the "limited war" of aggression to a pitch and the American, puppet and satellite troop-strength to 1,200,000 men, the people and their armed forces maintained and reinforced their offensive position, breaking the enemy's repeated strategic counter-offensives and drove them into a defensive and passive posture.

Since early spring this year, on the impetus of their victories, they unleashed generalized offensives and simultaneous uprisings and recorded unprecedentedly great and all-sided successes.

Within eight months, our armed forces and people attacked a series of big and small urban centers, including Saigon, Hue and Da Nang, and liberated vast populated rural areas; they killed, wounded and captured more than half a million enemy troops, among which number nearly 180,000 of the United States and its satellites, shot down or destroyed on the ground more than 5,000 aircraft, and damaged more than 10,000 military vehicles, including over 6,000 tanks and armoured cars.

This historic victory has brought about a new situation very favourable to us and utterly unfavourable to the enemy.

The position of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam has become increasingly steadier and their strength has not ceased to grow.

The enemy's strategic disposition has been upset. Reduced to a more defensive and passive position, they were encircled and attacked in all battlefields. Their forces sustained heavy losses and their morale has been continuously sinking. **The failure of the American imperialists is obvious.**

In the North our armed forces and people recorded tremendous victories. Up to November 1, 1968, they brought down 3,243 U.S. aircraft and killed, wounded or captured some thousand pilots. They had on 143 occasions sunk or damaged enemy warships and commando-boats.

Fighting and building abreast, in bitter war conditions, the North has continued to grow up. Socialist construction has been maintained and developed. Our economic potential has been strengthened.

Our national defence capacity has expanded considerably.

Communications and transport went on uninterrupted, linking the rear to the front.

Public security and order was insured. Our people's livelihood remained stable.

As it resisted, the North found itself in better shape to defend itself and fulfil its historical mission as the revolutionary base of the whole country and the great rear of the great front — heroic South Viet Nam.

The victory of our armed forces and people in frustrating the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction takes on a great strategic significance.

First, in defeating the war of destruction we have shattered a strategic scheme of the enemy, foiling a

component part of their war of aggression against our fatherland and dealing a heavy blow at their aggressive will. This is the common victory of our armed forces and people throughout the country, a victory due to the militant solidarity between North and South. With the fighting tradition of our heroic people and the strength of our unity, we have defeated the American imperialists' war of destruction, have been registering great successes in the South and will certainly achieve complete victory.

Second, our victory over the war of destruction constitutes a setback for a new type of the American imperialists' war of aggression. Thoroughly grasping and successfully carrying out the political and military lines of our Party, we brought into full play the integrated strength and great effectiveness of people's war and got the better of an important air and naval force of the United States, the brutal chieftain of all imperialisms. Parallel to the heavy failure of over 1,200,000 American, puppet and satellite troops in the South, the "supremacy of the U.S. Air Force" has been debunked in the North. This illustrates the invincible strength of people's war and the lamentable bankruptcy of imperialism's outmoded military science; this also proves our people's capability to defeat any type of aggressive war by any imperialism that dares to invade our fatherland.

Third, the repeated and great victories won in both parts of our country have instilled more confidence into our people and strengthened their determination to fight until final victory. They have filled our brothers and friends in all the five continents with joy

and enthusiasm, and struck fear into the enemy. The series of heavy setbacks sustained by the United States in Viet Nam has had a serious impact on its political and economic situation and disastrously impaired its prestige in the world.

The above victories were due to :

The very sound and creative political and military lines and the conduct of the war of our Party headed by President Ho Chi Minh ;

The excellence and solidity of our socialist regime ;

The iron determination to fight and win and the unshakable unity of our armed forces and people ;

The encouragement and wholehearted assistance given us by the fraternal socialist countries and our friends in all continents.

On this occasion the Viet Nam People's Army High Command warmly praises and mentions the accomplishments of all the people's armed forces which have ceaselessly reinforced their build-up and recorded resounding achievements and feats of arms, thus further highlighting their nature and tradition, that of fighters **faithful to the Party, devoted to the people, capable of fulfilling any task, overcoming any difficulty and defeating any enemy.**

The **air defence forces** in the three categories of the armed forces—from militia units to A.A. artillery, missile, air force and radar units—harmoniously coordinated their action ; fighting with intrepidity and resourcefulness, they wove a dense anti-aircraft network, frustrated enemy attacks under all circumstances

and efficaciously defended the air space and territorial waters of the North of our country.

The **anti-aircraft artillery units**, valiant and indomitable, who carried into effect the "aim straight at the enemy" * watchword and increased their ability as they fought, have deserved being the main force in the struggle against the enemy's war of destruction.

The **missile units** have grown up quickly and, with resourcefulness, initiative and courage, got the better of enemy tactical and strategical aircraft.

The **air force units**, young but heroic and resourceful, have highly developed the power of technical equipment at their disposal, applied a versatile and original combat method and won victories in all their engagements.

The **radar units** have continually raised their technical standard and with courage and sang-froid efficaciously fulfilled their combat duty.

The **engineer and military transport units, together with other communication and transport units and youth shock-brigades**, struggled steadfastly day and night and achieved exploits all over our communication network, maintaining in good order the arteries linking the rear to the front, one region to another and ours to the fraternal countries. They thus met the requirements of the fighting, of production and of the people's livelihood.

* Order of A.A. company political instructor Nguyen Viet Xuan to his unit when enemy planes dived on his batteries in November 1964. Since then it has become a fighting slogan of the North Vietnamese armed forces and people. (*Pub*).

The **naval units**, which fought with exceptional courage, have made an active contribution to the defence of our fatherland's territorial waters and air space, and dealt telling blows at enemy warships and aircraft.

The **artillery units**, which had developed their tradition of fighting with endurance, remarkably fulfilled their duty, delivering accurate and thundering blows at enemy warships and land-based cannons.

The **signal units** courageously and constantly maintained the lines in the course of fierce battles.

The **infantry units** ceaselessly increased their fighting capacity, evinced marvellous gallantry in emulating one another, and successfully accomplished every task.

The **regional troops, people's security armed forces and people's security forces**, who had closely co-ordinated their action with the regular troops and the militia and self-defence units, recorded outstanding exploits, shooting down American aircraft, capturing pilots, punishing spies and commandos, and maintaining order and security.

The **militia and self-defence units** composed of courageous and able young and old people, men and women of all religious beliefs, of the mountain regions and the plains, have proved capable of handling many kinds of weapons, from rifles, machine-guns to anti-aircraft guns and pieces of ordnance ; they created an extensive fire network dangerous for the enemy and recorded resounding exploits, bringing down American aircraft, capturing pilots and setting afire American warships. They have thus effectually contributed to the maintenance of security in their localities, while

playing their role as a shock force in communications and transport as well as in the development of production.

All the services of the army and all the logistic offices and units fought with courage and worked to the best of their abilities ; they tided over all difficulties, lifted their standard in all respects and made an effective contribution to the fighting.

The Viet Nam People's Army High Command expresses sincere gratitude and warm congratulations to the **people and cadres in all regions, of all nationalities and religious communities, to the cadres and employees in all branches, services and mass organizations**, for their solidarity with, and assistance to, the armed forces with which they shared the fighting and to whose build-up they made a devoted and unstinted contribution ; for their steadfastness and courage in overcoming all trials and hardships, their lofty spirit of sacrifice and selfless dedication in serving the front and strengthening the rear in every field.

The **working class**, playing its vanguard role, showed creative abilities, constantly preserved and developed production, and valiantly took part in the fighting.

The **collective peasantry** courageously overcame natural calamities and enemy destruction, produced well, fought well and purveyed the front with manpower and supplies.

The **revolutionary intelligentsia** contributed their endeavour and talent to push ahead science, technology, education, public health, etc. so as to serve the fighting, production and the people's livelihood.

The powerful "Three Ready's" movement* among the **youth** and the seething "Three Responsibilities" movement** among the **women**, brought into play the ardent patriotism and the heroic mettle of the Ho Chi Minh younger generation and of the Vietnamese women, promoted their inexhaustible strength to defend and consolidate the rear, and actively assist and support the front.

The Viet Nam People's Army High Command expresses warm congratulations to all localities from the mountain regions to the plains and the towns, from the border to the far-off islands, for their worthy contribution to our people's resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

The **Fourth Military Zone***** fought valiantly and perseveringly and recorded glorious victories, deserving to be the front of the socialist North, the immediate rear of the heroic great front.

Vinh Linh, undaunted land, with its heroic **Con Co** island, firmly held out as the outpost of the North.

Quang Binh, steadfast and courageous, resplendent with exploits, fought well, produced well, effectively

* The "Three Ready's" movement: ready to fight, ready to join the army, ready to go wherever the country requires them to and to defeat any enemy.

** The "Three Responsibilities" movement: to assume production jobs while their husbands, sons and brothers are at the front, to take good care of their families so that the men can devote their heart and soul to the fighting, to stand ready to serve the front when necessary.

*** The Fourth Military Zone: comprises the provinces between the 20th and 17th parallels.

served the front and led the other provinces downing the highest number of American planes.

Ha Tinh bent all its energies to carry out production and fighting, gallantly overcame all difficulties and hardships and achieved many exploits.

Valiant Nghe An, with **Vinh** city shining with feats of arms, fought well and registered remarkable successes in production meant for the front.

Thanh Hoa with heroic **Ham Rong-Nam Ngan** fought steadfastly, maintained the life lines linking the rear to the front, and made a worthy contribution in manpower and supplies to the resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Heroic **Quang Ninh** mining area got the better of the enemy right at its first battle and went on to win victory after victory.

Haiphong port, valiant and determined to win, scored glorious victories and steeled itself in the fighting.

Hanoi courageously encountered the enemy with a perfect coordination of its arms and dealt him staggering blows. Credited with resounding feats of arms, it fully deserves to be the heroic capital of a heroic country.

The **Northern zone**, the **North-Western zone**, the **provinces in the plains and the mountain regions**, and the **sea islands** continuously fought and won, pushed ahead production and served the front, making a considerable contribution to the common success of our armed forces and people.

On this occasion, the Viet Nam People's Army High Command sends warmest greetings to the heroic South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces and compatriots. Under the glorious banner of the National Front for Liberation, they are stepping up their generalized offensives and uprisings with an irresistible impetus, determined to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors.

The Viet Nam People's Army High Command sincerely thanks the fraternal socialist countries for their extremely valuable and considerable assistance, and progressive people in the world, including those in the United States, for their deep sympathy and great support to our people's resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Our people's revolutionary struggle has recorded tremendous successes. Fine prospects, a most brilliant future and extremely favourable opportunities lie ahead. At the same time, grimmest trials on the way to final victory are to be faced.

The American imperialists have suffered heavy losses in both parts of our country; their will of aggression has been shaken. However, very obdurate by nature, they have not yet given up their aggressive design. They are carrying on aggression against the South and committing no end of savage crimes against our fellow-countrymen there. They still harbour dark schemes and wicked and perfidious manoeuvres in an attempt to wreck the North.

Our armed forces and people must resolutely put into practice President Ho Chi Minh's teaching, "The

sacred duty of our entire people at present is to **stiffen our determination to fight and win, our resolve to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed towards peaceful national reunification.**

“So long as there remains an aggressor on our soil, we must continue our fight and wipe him out.”

The duty of our armed forces is most heavy. Their function is to fight the enemy. Their responsibility is to defeat him, to achieve and safeguard the independence and freedom of the fatherland.

The Viet Nam People's Army High Command calls on all officers and men:

To heighten their will to fight and their revolutionary vigilance, promote their fighting capability in every field, tide over all difficulties and obstacles, overcome all sacrifices and trials, display steadfastness, resourcefulness, courage and initiative, and fulfil every task entrusted by the Party and people with splendid success.

Forward! Final victory will be ours!

Hanoi, November 5, 1968