

~~WIP/PSI~~
W
12-68

DIEN BAN FIGHTERS SMASH U.S.-PUPPET OPERATION

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1000 GMT 11 Dec 68 S

[Commentary: "Heroic Military Feat on the Homeground of Valiant Dien Ban"]

[Text] A large-scale operation by more than 7,000 U.S., puppet, and satellite troops has been completely smashed by the stalwart, brave resistance of the fighters and compatriots of valiant Dien Ban.

On the night of 9 December, the remnant troops of the so-called biggest operation had to retreat from Dien Ban without fanfare after more than 600 U.S. Marines had been sacrificed. On 10 December, UPI admitted that the U.S. Marines had paid the highest price for their military operation in the Dien Ban area. In fact, this was a tragic setback of the U.S.-puppets in their new scheme.

Everyone knows well that, faced with the simultaneous, great victories of the armed forces and people in both zones of our country, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen have recently striven to achieve the so-called urgent pacification plan which is actually aimed at massacring our people and setting up a white belt to protect their central hideouts in the cities and bases. They used 80,000 diehard cruel agents in the so-called campaign Phoenix 8, stimulating them to savagely massacre our people. Moreover, they simultaneously launched pacification operations, attacking and destroying indiscriminately, coercing our people to go into concentration camps, and frantically forcing our youths to serve as cannonfodder.

The Dien Ban area of Quang Nam-Da Nang, a revolutionary base in the plains of central Trung Bo well known for the people's guerrilla warfare movement, was chosen as a pilot center for their urgent military operations. There, they mobilized an entire U.S. Marine regiment, Pak Chung-hui battalion, a puppet regular regiment, and a number of puppet police companies supported by tanks, aircraft, and artillery to launch a large-scale operation against a 26-square-kilometer area.

According to UPI, the allied troops were so numerous that they had had to jostle in order to encircle the people. They resorted to all brutal moves such as burning houses, pillaging, arresting thousands of people and herding them into concentration camps, and savagely killing and torturing our compatriots in an attempt to shake their unsubmitive fighting spirit. However, iron and steel and all barbarous acts of the cruel enemy failed to subdue our compatriots, but only resulted in animating the warm patriotism and profound hatred of the Dien Ban people who have a tradition of brave, stalwart struggle.

Within about the first 3 months of the revolutionary storm, Dien Ban exterminated nearly 3,200 enemy troops, downed or damaged 34 aircraft, and wrecked 76 armored vehicles, thereby achieving the highest record in the annihilation of enemy strength in the central Trung Bo plains. In a recent test of strength with the enemy, Dien Ban once again manifested this heroic tradition vividly. In 10 days of simultaneous attacks from 16 to 25 November, the Dien Ban fighters and compatriots scored glorious victories, putting out of action nearly 1,000 U.S.-puppet troops and Pak Chung-hui mercenaries, mauling the 2d Battalion of the 7th U.S. Marine Regiment and the 2d Battalion of the puppet 51st Regiment, downing or damaging 18

aircraft, wrecking seven armored vehicles, and seizing large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and military equipment.

The valiant struggle of the Dien Ban armed forces and people over more than 3 weeks succeeded in forcing the U.S. aggressors to tragically end their military operation after boasting that they were making satisfactory progress. This was eloquent proof of the combined strength of the wonderful people's war. With the inexhaustible potential strength of the constantly consolidated and expanded liberated areas and with the rapid growth to maturity of the armed forces, the Dien Ban combatants and compatriots demonstrated that they had inflicted heavy defeats on the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen for having hit the brass-iron wall of the liberated areas.

Under the hail of enemy bombs and bullets, the Dien Ban fighters and compatriots remained day and night at their gardens, hamlets, streets, and homes, bravely harassing the enemy both in military and political fields.

Closely coordinated with the guerrilla forces, the regional troops fiercely intercepted the enemy during his pillage and search operations and penetrated enemy barracks by surprise to destroy infantry and armored units and aircraft, thereby rendering the enemy embarrassed, passive, and unable to counterattack, despite his numerous army, his strong firepower, and his high mobility. In a period of 10 days, from 16 to 25 November, the liberation fighters twice attacked the Vinh Dien district town, a well-defended center of the enemy, annihilating nearly 200 enemy troops and punishing and capturing dozens of cruel pacification agents, thereby setting a brilliant example of continuous attack against the cities.

Each hamlet and garden of Dien Tho, Dien Thang, Dien Thai, Dien An, and Dien Phuoc villages has become an inviolable bastion, simultaneously frustrating all enemy assaults. In a period of 10 days, nearly 500 enemy troops were exterminated and 16 aircraft were downed. As a result of this, those laying the siege exposed themselves to annihilation by the guerrillas. With an unmatched brave and wise fighting spirit, with outstanding technical and tactical progress, and with adequate equipment, the might of the Dien Ban PLAF reached its greatest stage of development.

Reporting on the developments of the battle, UPI admitted that the Viet Cong--that is, the liberation troops--had fought to the end in well-camouflaged trenches and foxholes, checking the movement of U.S. Marines by fiercely firing their machineguns. Among more than 600 of U.S. Marines killed or wounded, many were caught in skillfully manufactured traps laid in the solid fortifications and well-defended bunkers.

Once again, the heroic Dien Ban victory warns the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen that, since the so-called strategic hamlet policy, revolutionary rural development program, and McNamara's pacification program became nullified during the first few days of the revolutionary storm, the military operations aimed at achieving their current urgent pacification plan are achieving nothing before the tide of general offensive and concerted uprisings of our armed forces and people.

Just as Dien Ban bravely frustrated all these military operations by itself, the regional forces and people in the entire area will surely smash all dark schemes of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen.

Let us enthusiastically hail the fighters and compatriots of valiant Dien Ban for, through their outstanding military feats, glorifying the traditions of the loyal, valiant, and stalwart homeland, and for taking the lead in the U.S.-extermination movement. Verily, Dien Ban, the stalwart steel homeland of Quang Nam-Da Nang is worthy of the confidence and pride of all our armed forces and people. Under the NFLSV's glorious banner, in strictly implementing the PLAF Command's order and learning from and emulating Dien Ban, let our armed forces and people in the entire zone surge forward with the impetus of victories, deal many more mortal blows, smash the U.S.-puppet urgent pacification plan, stage continuous attacks and uprisings, and advance toward complete victory.

REPORTS ON PLAF MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH

Sa Dec Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0553 GMT 8 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi, VNA December 8--The People's Liberation Armed Forces on the night of November 26 overran the Bak Hoi post in Sa Dec Province, Mekong river delta, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY. The day before, the PLAF slammed big gun fire into the Vinh Long airfield, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

In Thu Dau Mot Province, the regional armed forces on November 14 wiped out the command post of a U.S. battalion just airlifted in to take the pressure off the beleaguered Phuoc Vinh position. Attacking a battalion of American reinforcements, later the liberation fighters completely put out of action one company.

From November 18 to 23, the regional armed forces in Thanh Tri district, Soc Trang Province, repeatedly assaulted the headquarters of Nga Nam military sub-sector, wiping out nearly 170 enemy troops including a puppet civil guard company neatly knocked down. The patriotic armed forces also captured many enemy troops, and seized a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment.

Darlac Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1505 GMT 9 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi, VNA December 9--The regional armed forces in Darlac Province on the central Vietnam high plateaux on the night of November 28 launched a surprise attack on an enemy cantonment in Buon Trinh, Buon Ho district, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY.

The liberation fighters held the battlefield under their control for 3 hours, wiping out five platoons of commandos, civil guards and popular forces of the puppets. They also captured a quantity of firearms and other military equipment.

The same night, they fiercely pounded enemy positions in Buon Ho district capital, causing additional losses to the enemy.

In Tay Ninh Province, on December 2, the guerrillas in 15 minutes fighting put out of action one puppet commando platoon in Soc Con Trang area.

Gia Dinh Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1539 GMT 11 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 11--At 2:00 a.m. on December 4, the liberation forces in Gia Dinh Province on the northern fringe of Saigon attacked and sank the U.S. tanker K.A.N.A. anchored at Nha Be port, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY. First reports said the P.L.A.F. shells blew up the engine room of this 12,000-ton ship, triggering a fierce fire; three-quarters of the craft were sunk into the water.

Also according to G.P.P.A., for 2 consecutive nights on December 6 and 7, the P.L.A.F. artillery attacked many positions of the U.S. puppets in Vao Lanh, capital of Kien Phong Province, Kien Van town, and Tan Tich airport.

In Khen Van town, a U.S. billet and the house of the puppet district chief were among the targets hit. A gunnery station was heavily damaged.

In Cao Lanh town, the artillery bombardments on the following night caused substantial damage to the provincial administrative quarters and a barracks of the puppet (?commandoes).

The shelling of Tan Tich airport set off a big fire and brought activity at the airport to a standstill. Besides, the P.L.A.F. sank a freighter and damaged another, both being used for the construction of Tan Tich airport.

Quang Tri Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1536 GMT 10 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 10--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in northern Quang Tri in only a few days last week killed or wounded nearly 170 American troops including two platoons, and destroyed eight military vehicles, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY.

These platoons were wiped out on December 6 and 7 soon after being helilifted on Hill 425. Forty-five men were killed in surprise attack on December 6, and the remaining 27 GI's were cut down by mortar shells on the following day.

On December 8 an American company making a probe to Hill 333 about 10 km southwest of Con Tien was violently intercepted by the PLAF and took 70 casualties.

Earlier, on December 5 the liberation fighters wiped out (?eight) American intelligence men near Con Tien and killed or wounded 14 GI's during a heavy gun shelling of the Bai Son military base. They also destroyed seven military vehicles.

Hill 333

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0224 GMT 11 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 11--Intercepting a U.S. company lurking around Hill 333 in Quang Tri Province, the PLAF on December 8 wiped out 70 GI's, GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY reported.

On December 7, they mortared a U.S. cantonment south of Hill 425, inflicting on the enemy 27 casualties, putting an end to the two American platoons helilifted in the previous day and which had lost 45 men fresh from their arrival.

Also in the northern part of the province, skirmishes broke out at various places on December 5 and 6, resulting in some 30 more American casualties. Other losses of the enemy included eight military vehicles destroyed.

In Cai Be district, My Tho Province, the regional people's armed forces on the night of December 5 assaulted a pacification battalion positioned along Highway 4. The attackers took a toll of 40 enemy troops, and destroyed four barracks.

At the same time, the people in various strategic hamlets along Highway 4 rose up against the enemy. Those detained in Rach Soi strategic hamlet blasted down a steel bridge, and tracked down a number of cruel enemy agents. They also held meetings and put up NFL flags and slogans at many places.

Kien Hoa Province

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0202 GMT 10 Dec 68 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 10--The People's Liberation Armed Forces on December 7 intercepted elements of U.S. 9th Infantry Division in Kien Hoa Province about 38 miles south of Saigon. Western sources said fighting occurred after U.S. troops were taken by helicopters into the ricefield, where they were immediately attacked by grenades and automatic weapons.

The following day, the P.J.A.F. intercepted troops of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division supported by artillery and helicopter gunships some 30 miles north of Saigon.

The liberation fighters in northern Quang Nam Province intercepted U.S. Marines about 20km south of Da Nang city, killing or wounding many enemy. A.P. said that it was believed to be the heaviest fighting since November 20.

On the night of December 8, the P.L.A.F. launched big gun assaults on the Duc Ton and Bucn Ho military sub-sectors, the Nha Trang airfield and a U.S. basecamp at Long Binh.

Early December 9, the P.L.A.F. in the Saigon-Gia Dinh area destroyed by plastic charge a U.S. military vehicle close to the Tan Son Nhut airfield.

SUHARTO DISCUSSES ROLE OF NEW ABRI OFFICERS

Djakarta INDONESIAN INFORMATION SERVICE in English to Diplomatic Missions 1033
GMT 11 Dec 68 B

[Text] President Suharto has stressed that the young officers of the current generation were the bridge between the past and the future. He stated this during an installation ceremony of newly graduated officers of the Armed Forces Academy in Surabaya on Tuesday.

These new officers were important because they were guided by the armed forces and officers who had directly established and developed the identity of the Indonesian Armed Forces, the President said. He hoped that the new officers would continue to extend this spirit to the coming generations. The officers of the armed forces might change, but the identity of the armed forces must remain the same, as this was the specific characteristic of the armed forces, he said. Like the Pantjasila and other ideals of Indonesian independence, the spirit of the armed forces should remain the same as stated in the constitution, according to the President.

The armed forces should be active in executing the development plan, President Suharto continued. The armed forces had been given the confidence of the people to be its vanguard and backbone in the new order; therefore they were to be its active implementors.

The armed forces should also remain compact as an absolute condition in carrying out the duties for society, the President stressed. He warned that national security was still being threatened, and the armed forces had the task to defend the nation from all threats. Without national security, no national welfare would be achieved, he added.

In conclusion, President Suharto thanked the Armed Forces Academy commander for completing his task, while he congratulated the 1,369 graduating officers.

MALIK TO JOIN ECAFE CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK

Singapore AFP in English 0625 GMT 12 Dec 68 B (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Djakarta, Dec. 12 (AFP)--Foreign Minister Adam Malik flew to Bangkok today to attend the ministerial meeting on Asian cooperation under the auspices of ECAFE (economic commission for Asia and the Far East).

Foreign Department sources here said Malik would join Indonesia's six-man delegation which departed for the Bangkok conference last Monday. Informed sources here, however, expected the foreign minister to use conference channels as a means to approach Malaysia and the Philippines over the Sabah issue.

The future of ASEAN--the 15-month-old association of the five Southeast Asian countries of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines--is presently being threatened by the dispute between Malaysia and the Philippines over the Borneo state of Sabah.

BRIEFS

SUHARTO CONFERENCES--President Suharto conferred with Parliament Speaker Achmad Sjaichu and Vice Speakers Isnaeni, Sjarif Thajeb, Sulisto, and Ben Mang Reng Say at Merakka Palace on 9 December to discuss the 5-year development plan and the draft state budget for 1969. Achmad Sjaichu said that the chief of state will present the 5-year development plan to Parliament on 13 or 14 January 1969. (Djakarta Domestic Indonesian 1200 GMT 9 Dec 68 B)