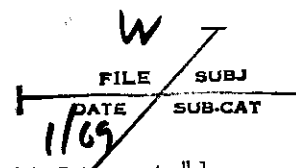


## QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Editorial

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0415 GMT 1 Jan 69 S



[1 January QUAN DOI NHAN DAN editorial: "Glorious Victories, Bright Prospects"]

[Text] In 1968, our armed forces and people throughout the country correctly implemented President Ho's early spring greetings, in which he said: "This spring far outshines the previous springs. Happy tidings of victories throughout the land are received."

In 1968, which was opened by the glorious general offensive and uprisings, the heroic southern armed forces and people brought about a leaping, bounding development in the people's war, winning unprecedentedly great victories which jolted world public opinion, shook the United States, and created a new situation for the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance of our entire people. Nineteen sixtyeight was a year in which our people attacked the enemy repeatedly and the flowers of armed exploits bloomed on all battlefields. Nineteen sixtyeight was a year in which our people won extremely important victories in a highly important period, creating a turning point in the war and a brilliant historical landmark in our people's anti-U.S. national salvation struggle as well as in the history of their fight against foreign aggression.

During the past year the southern armed forces and people, under the glorious NFLSV banner, continuously launched attacks and staged uprisings, continuously winning great, comprehensive victories. In 1968 the southern armed forces and people annihilated or captured some 630,000 of the enemy, including more than 230,00 U.S. and satellite troops, and destroyed an enormous volume of U.S. war equipment, including 6,000 aircraft, 13,500 military vehicles, 1,100 big guns, 1,000 ships and boats, and 700 ammunition and gasoline and oil depots. They definitely defeated the two-prong strategy, compelling the enemy to abruptly change this strategy and to sustain failure even in his new clear-and-hold strategic plan. The southern armed forces and people vigorously struck at the puppet administration at various levels, sowing chaos in the enemy's footholds in the cities, enlarging the liberated areas, establishing revolutionary administration everywhere, and further developing the offensive elan of the revolution.

In the northern part of our country, our armed forces and people, under party leadership, defeated the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction and continued successfully to build socialism while helping the kith-and-kin south wholeheartedly and to the best of their ability. The northern people scored outstanding achievements on the agricultural, industrial, communications and transportation, educational, cultural, public health, and social fronts.

The great victories of our people throughout the country in 1968 have obviously shaken the U.S. imperialists' aggressive determination, compelling them to make highly significant steps backward, militarily and politically. The U.S. imperialists have been compelled to reconsider and readjust the objectives of their limited war of aggression, change their military strategies, retreat into a defensive position, and get bogged down deeply in a passive situation.

The U.S. aggressors were compelled to unconditionally stop their bombing and strafing throughout the northern part of our country and to sit down and talk with the NFLSV in order to find a political solution to the South Vietnam problem. This constituted a highly significant step backward for the U.S. imperialists, and presaged other inevitable steps backward in the days ahead. This also marked a negative turning point in the U.S. neocolonialist war of aggression in the south.

Nineteen sixtyeight was a year in which the Americans exerted their utmost effort, intensifying their limited war of aggression to a climax. But last year was precisely a year in which the United States sustained unprecedentedly heavy defeats. Sustaining defeats in Vietnam, strongly opposed at home, and isolated in the world, the U.S. authorities were under pressure from all sides and suffered from increasingly serious internal division.

Last year our people became visibly stronger in both position and strength. The more we fought, the more victories we won; the more we fought, the stronger we became. Our friends on the five continents wholeheartedly supported our people's just struggle. Last year our people's armed forces in both the north and south grew up quickly and, along with all the people, scored brilliant performances in the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle.

After a year of general offensive and uprisings, the PLAF has made tremendous progress in fighting ability and fighting power on the Hue, Saigon, Khe Sanh, Da Nang, and Tay Ninh fronts. Our people's brilliant victories in 1968 are a premise for greater victories in the coming year. Nineteen sixtynine is a year of brilliant prospects for our people's anti-U.S. national salvation struggle. Our entire country is facing a new political and military situation advantageous to us and disadvantageous to the enemy.

Our military and political forces will develop day by day. Our position of attacking and encircling the enemy will become increasingly stronger. The impetus of our determination to win will be heightened day by day. As for the enemy, although he is still very obdurate and crafty, his forces have suffered heavy losses, in terms of manpower and war materiel. His military situation is passive. The morale of U.S. and puppet troops is decreasing day by day. The U.S. "puppets' military and political difficulties are very great and insurmountable.

As President Ho said in his 1969 early spring greetings, "Last year's victories were glorious; this year the Front will surely win great victories." Our people's struggle is still fierce and complex. But this year we will surely achieve greater victories. Upon entering the new year, our armed forces and people are endeavoring to develop last year's victories, struggle perseveringly, and step up the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle toward complete victory.

Upon entering the new year, let our people's armed forces understand more thoroughly that our mission is to fight, that our duty is to stay on the battlefield, and that our responsibility is to defeat the U.S. aggressors. Standing side by side with our people, let our people's armed forces step up the emulation movement of killing the enemy and scoring feats of arms and endeavor to implement President Ho's New Year's Day appeal: "For the sake of independence and freedom, fight to kick out the Americans and overthrow the puppets."

Nineteen sixtynine will surely be a year of very great and comprehensive victories for our people throughout the country.

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