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LIBERATION ARMY VICTORIES REPORTED IN CENTRAL TRUNG BO

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VNA. At 0015 hours on 23 February, the army and people of Central Trung Bo launched a simultaneous attack and uprising, striking heavy blows at the Americans and puppets throughout the battlefield, according to the Liberation News Agency. The liberation army attacked the enemy in eleven cities and provincial capitals, nearly 30 district capitals and military zones, 16 airstrips, 13 storage areas for strategic materials, and many large bases in only six days between 23 and 28 February. Many places were hit from two to eight times.

The strategic base at Da Nang was unable to avoid the forceful attacks of the liberation army in spite of an in-depth defense by nearly 30 thousand U. S., puppet, and Korean troops. Many U. S.-puppet positions in Trung Hu Vuong Street and in Hoang Thuong, Hoa Cuong, and Cho Moi were attacked. The liberation army heroically occupied and struck enemy reaction forces for several days in the area of Cam Le Street and the Sicovina weaving factory. Command posts of the III Marine Amphibious Force and the First Marine Division were both attacked. Enemy airstrips, storehouses, and piers were continuously attacked and burned in spite of heavy defenses. Perimeter defenses on Phuoc Tuong mountain and along both banks of the Cam Le river were destroyed. The Front's flag flew over Ngu Hanh mountain.

The enemy in the provincial capitals of Hoi An, Tam Ky, Quang Ngai, Qui Nhon, Tuy Hoa, Nha Trang, Kontum, Pleiku, Phu Bon, and Ban He Thuot was unable to resist the successive and forceful attacks of the liberation army in spite of reinforced defenses as had been the case in Da Nang. In addition to the cities, the army and people in the mountains and rural areas of the delta continuously attacked enemy positions in An Hoa, Nui Lo, Tien Phuoc, Chu Lai, Som Siac, Tuan Ninh, Bau Co, Routes 14 and 19, and Pleikan, killing thousands of U. S., puppet, and Pak Chung Hi troops.

During the above-mentioned six day period, the army and people of Central Trung Bo continuously attacked enemy storage areas, where they burned scores of tons of enemy ordnance as well as fuel at Da Nang, Deo Son in Qui Nhon,

Pleiku, and Kontum, etc. The military base at Cam Ranh, the place which the Americans and puppets consider as a "secure rear area," was fiercely attacked by the Khanh Hoa liberation forces. Various battalion, brigade, division, corps, and army command posts of the enemy were continuously attacked. The U. S. American division in Central Trung Bo was once again heavily damaged. The division command post, all three brigade command posts, and four battalion command posts were attacked during a single night. Hundreds of enemy soldiers and technical employees were killed and much of the enemy's machinery, power, and command talent was destroyed.

In co-operation with the People's Liberation Armed Forces, tens of thousands of compatriots rose up to kill local officials, destroy "strategic hamlets," secure the right of collective ownership, and help the liberation army destroy the enemy. The remaining oppression by the United States and puppets was smashed to bits. Many concentrated areas of local ringleaders in Vuon Lai, Phu Cu in Tam Ky District, Tao Tuong in Quang Ngai Province, and Cong Ho Binh in Kontum Province were destroyed. Gangs of spies, who go under the name "phoenix," were punished right in their lairs at Hoi An, Quang Ngai, and Pleiku, etc. Nearly 100 forced resettlement areas and "strategic hamlets" were destroyed. Many security and militia units and gangs of puppet authorities in the hamlets and townships of Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Phu My, and An Nhon were annihilated. Gangs of obstinate local officials and council members who ran away and hid in the district capitals of Tien Phuoc and Son Tinh were severely punished.

The compatriots in Da Nang and the provincial capitals of Hoi An, Tam Ky, Quang Ngai, and Qui Nhon guided the liberation troops in attacks on enemy positions located deep inside the cities. They captured local officials, provided supplies for the troops, and contributed money to the resistance. The compatriots of Ba Ngoi, the provincial capital of Khanh Hoa, wholeheartedly helped the liberation soldiers in the attack against the Cam Ranh base.

Tens of thousands of compatriots of various ethnic groups in Tay Nguyen who were being detained by the enemy in "strategic hamlets" broke the enemy's hold with the help of the liberation army and returned to their mountain slopes. The compatriots of various ethnic groups along routes 14 and 19 set up many obstacles in conjunction with liberation army soldiers and created many supply and transportation difficulties for the enemy.

According to as yet incomplete figures, the army and people of Central Trung Bo killed or captured more than 7.5 thousand troops in only six days. These figures include nearly 3.0 thousand U. S. and Pak Chung Hi troops. They also destroyed or inflicted heavy damage upon four brigade and regiment command posts, five infantry and artillery battalions, six battalion command posts, and 13 U. S.-puppet companies. They shot down 55 aircraft (not counting the number of aircraft destroyed in the attacks against the airstrips at Da Nang, Nuoc Man, Chu Lai, Trung An, Nha Trang, and Cam Ranh. They burned and destroyed 150 military vehicles (including 84 tanks and armored vehicles); destroyed and damaged 40 artillery pieces; sunk and damaged six

warships; and burned 13 major storage areas containing more than 15.0 million liters of fuel and tens of thousands of tons of ordnance and weapons.

Many units performed outstanding battlefield exploits in many areas.

The People's Liberation Armed Forces destroyed two U. S. artillery battalions at Nui Lo and Phuoc Tuong in northern Quang Nam during the same night. On another night, the liberation army destroyed two U. S. brigade command posts at Nui Que and Hoa Vang in southern Quang Nam. The army and people of Tay Nguyen cut off and paralyzed routes 14 and 19, destroying many enemy armored and infantry columns along those roads. Liberation army units have deeply penetrated and forcefully attacked enemy positions with an ever-increasing degree of combat effectiveness because of stable technical standards, heroism, and courage. Cooperation on the battlefield between units, provinces, and the three branches of the armed forces is regular and close. While the enemy army in Da Nang was concerned with meeting the forceful attacks of the liberation army in the streets, in and around the airstrip, and at storage points other attacks were being mounted throughout northern Quang Nam against enemy positions in Hoi An, Vinh Dien, An Hoa, and many other district capitals. The army and people of Central Trung Bo rose up, surrounded, and attacked nearly every district capital and major town. They also cut off Route One, a strategic line of communications, in many places. This occurred while the U. S. Americal division and the Second puppet division were under attack throughout southern Quang Nam and Quang Ngai by the liberation army. In Tay Nguyen, the enemy was blocked at Pleikan and Duc Co while Routes 14 and 19 were cut off and the enemy was threatened in Kontum, Pleiku, and Ban Me Thuot. Meanwhile, in Binh Dinh and Khanh Hoa, there were attacks against warehouses, shipping piers, and airstrips where enemy sources of supply were destroyed.

The army and people of Central Trung Bo have maintained the initiative and an air of victory, continuously charged ahead, and inflicted heavier than ever damage upon the enemy.

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