

II. 14 Mar 69

S O U T H V I E T N A M

FILE / SUBJ
DATE / SUB-CAT

PLAF COMMAND COMMUNIQUE ON RECENT VICTORIES

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1610 GMT 13 Mar 69 B

W
3-69

[Communique issued on March 10 by the command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces on PLAF victories since February 22]

[Text] South Vietnam March 13 GPA--The command of the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces issued on March 10 a communique on the big victories recorded by the PLAF since February 22, 1969. The communique said:

In over a year of general offensive and widespread uprising, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have repeatedly recorded big and all-round victories as never seen before.

The U.S. aggressors and their henchmen have repeatedly taken very heavy losses. Despite their defensive and "clear-and-hold" strategy, their heavy defences, they have been living under constant fear of the attacks of the PLAF, of the outbursts of the people's wrath and of the people's demand for peace. Extremely ruthless and obdurate by nature, they have conducted utterly savage operations, bombing and strafing wantonly and using B-52 strategic bombers to unload hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs on the liberated areas, and even on populated centers close to the towns. They have stepped up forcible conscription for the "de-Americanization" of the war, patched up the "rural pacification" plan, repressed with extreme brutality and cynicism the movement for peace, pushed up their psywar and the "open arms" propaganda campaign, and frantically put into operation many other dark plots in order to maintain their neo-colonialist regime in South Vietnam.

For some months now, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen have made even more frantic efforts in their raids on the people. They have adopted a series of "preventive" measures by multiplying "probe" and police operations, putting their troops on constant alert, ordering barrack confinement . . . All this is aimed at forestalling further attacks and uprisings by the PLAF and the people.

But, no move of the enemy can check the rush of the revolutionary tide. Storms have again descended upon them. From the night of February 22-23, giving full play to their mettle of general offensive and widespread uprising, and in the flush of their previous victories, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces, from Quang Tri-Thua Thien in the north to the Ca Mau tip in the south, have simultaneously launched fierce assaults on the various hideouts of the enemy, causing them very heavy losses.

In the 10 days ending March 4, 1969, the PLAF sprang ground or artillery attacks on over 400 positions of the enemy. These included: 36 cities and provincial capitals; Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Quy Nhon, Hoi An, Tam Ky, Quang Ngai, Tuy Hoa, Nhan Trang, Pleiku, Kontum, Ban Me Thuot, Phap Rang, Phan Thiet, Phuoc Long, Binh Long, Gia Nghia, Bien Hoa, Xuan Loc, Vung Tau, Ba Ria, Tay Ninh, Hau Nghia, Tan An, My Tho, Go Cong, Chau Doc, Ben Tre, Cao Lanh, Moc Hoa, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Can Tho, Vi Thanh, Rach Gia and Ca Mau.

Thirty-five headquarters of the U.S.-puppets and satellites, from regimental level upwards, such as the H.Q.S. of the U.S. ground forces in South Vietnam, the U.S. 2d Field Command, the H.Q.S. of the U.S. 3d Amphibious Force, the HQDS of the puppet marine, the HQS of the puppet 1st and 2d Army Corps, and the command posts of dozens of divisions and brigades of the U.S.-puppets and satellites.

Thirty-eight airfields, as in Bien Hoa, Da Nang, Huoc Man, Chu Lai, Quang Ngai, A Rea, Cu Hanh, Thanh Son, Phan Theit, Cam Ranh, Phouc Long, Binh Long, Dau Tieng, Trang Lon, Dong Du, Can Dot, Binh Duc, My Duc, Tan Thanh, Binh Thuy, etc;

Seventeen big logistical areas, as in Long Binh, Nha Be, Da Nang, Cam Ranh, Binh Dinh, Pleiku, Kontum, Deo Son, etc; Over 100 district towns, townships, military subsectors, and other positions of the enemy.

The enemy was also beaten on various important roads such as Highways 1, 4, 13, 15, 19, and 20, on many inter-province roads and important waterways such as the rivers of Long Tau, Dong Nai, Van Co, and Mang Thit. Many of the targets were hit several times, some even on 10 occasions.

According to still incomplete statistics, within these 10 days of victorious fighting, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces: killed, wounded or captured about 45,000 enemy, including over 23,000 GI's and nearly 2,000 satellite troops; wiped out or inflicted heavy losses on two division HQS, six brigade HQS, 10 infantry battalions, and two artillery battalions of the U.S., one Thailand infantry battalion, and 60 companies of U.S.-puppet or satellite troops. The 25th Infantry Division, code-named the "Tropical Lighting," and the division "Americal" of the U.S. were badly maimed. The 3d Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division was crippled in Dau Tieng area;

Shot down or destroyed on the ground 470 war planes of various kinds and wrecked 1,170 military vehicles, among them 500 tanks and armoured cars and 250 heavy cannon and mortars;

Burnt down over 100 ammunition and fuel storages, sank or whot ablaze 115 warships and combat launches and blew up 35 bridges.

These exploits are outstanding in many respects. The achievements obtained in the 10 days under review surpassed those in the first 10 days of the spring attacks last year, in terms of U.S. live forces destroyed.

[Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam at 0500 GMT on 13 March rendered the last portion of the preceding sentence as follows: ...attacks last year. U.S. casualties in 1965, when the United States began rushing expeditionary troops into our country to wage aggression.]

These victories have much great significance, and have greatly affected the military situation.

First of all, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have firmly maintained and vigorously developed their position of continuous revolutionary offensive and their initiative on the battlefield. Therefore, they have succeeded in attacking and rising up continuously, thus scoring repeated victories. The PLAF have further matured in many fields and have become a heroic people's army. Their high determination to fight and to win and their creative fighting methods have helped increase their combat efficiency. They are fighting victoriously and will certainly, together with the people, succeed in completely defeating the aggressors and the traitors.

In the said 10 days, in spite of the enemy's unusual efforts to strengthen their defences, the people and their armed forces have smashed all enemy defence lines and blazed away, simultaneously and intensely, at hundreds of enemy positions.

The PLAF and the people have firmly maintained their initiative in their attacks. Whether in the mountains, the plains [or] the towns, all the three kinds of the people's armed forces have fought valiantly, and all the three attack prongs have yielded good results.

The PLAF's simultaneous actions on all the battlefields in the first days of spring 1969 have further proven their skillful command, their high sense of organization and discipline, their excellent sense of responsibility, and their big potential. The PLAF have applied with art a wide range of fighting methods and achieved a very harmonious combination of the various battlefields and their various services.

As a result, they have launched many attacks with very big successes, as in Da Nang, Long Binh, Dau Tieng, Dong Dinh, etc. The PLAF artillery has inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy and has thus become a permanent threat to the last dens of the enemy.

In many places, together with the people, the regional armed forces and guerrillas launched violent attacks on rural and mountainous areas still under enemy control, cutting communication lines, destroying "strategic hamlets," breaking the enemy grip, punishing cruel enemy agents, disbanding "civil-guard" organizations, crushing the nests of enemy "Phoenix" spies and broadening the liberated zone. Popular uprising is spreading to thousands of hamlets and villages in the provinces of Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Phouc Long, Ba Ria, Bien Hoa, Long An, My Tho, Ben Tre, An Giang, Tra Vinh, Rach Gai, Soc Trang, etc. Many cruel enemy agents have been punished, and hundreds of "civil defence" groups disbanded. The movement continues to surge ahead.

During the fight, all the three kinds of the people's armed forces have made strenuous efforts to increase and consolidate their strength rapidly, thus making themselves more enduring for sustained fighting and creating conditions for yet bigger victories.

Shoulder to shoulder with the PLAF and in their high spirit of offensive and uprising, the people have always been prepared to overcome all hardships, difficulties and sacrifices, thus proving themselves to be a tremendous political force.

In defiance of all repressive acts by the enemy, our people in the cities and towns and the surrounding areas have closely co-ordinated actions with the armed attacks by punishing cruel enemy agents, putting up NFL flags, banderoles, and slogans, holding public teach-ins on the Front's policy and on the program of action of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and demanding the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and formation of a peace-restoring cabinet to talk seriously with the Front.

Our people everywhere have actively contributed to the revolution, eagerly taking part in war supply groups and wholeheartedly assisting the People's Liberation Armed Forces. The people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, of various nationalities, have united closely to struggle under the glorious banner of the NFL and to surge ahead with a resolve to wipe out the aggressors and liberate their homeland.

Second, the victories of our armed forces and people in the last 10 days have once again inflicted serious losses on enemy forces, caused them many new and unsurmountable difficulties, and driven them deeper into passivity of which there can be no way out.

[Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam at 0500 GMT on 13 March adds the following passage: Despite their closely woven defense system, the 100 percent confinement of troops to barracks, and their repeated boasts that they have prevented or smashed our attacks, they cannot escape from being hit hard by our general offensive. The U.S.-puppet clique has, guessing daily, boasted that it knew beforehand about our attacks, but in the end, our attacks have greatly surprised it.]

The U.S.-puppets knew nothing about the time, direction, targets, scale and methods of our attacks. This is understandable, since the enemy is in a completely passive position and since our armed forces are on the continual offensive. The more we fight, the stronger we become, and the greater our initiative of attack and our flexibility.

The U.S.-puppets have been dealt stinging blows because their "clear and hold" strategy and "defence in depth" and "mobile defence" plans have failed to keep them from being attacked, because their losses in live force and war means have been very serious and because their boastful tales have been exploded.

Badly beaten, they have been trying in vain to hide their heavy defeats. They have tried to belittle our victories, but the outcries they have made in Saigon and Washington and at the Paris conference are a public avowal that they had taken a serious beating.

The U.S.-puppets have shamelessly given currency to their imaginary victories and tried to present their situation as a "stable" one by holding fake elections at a number of villages and hamlets. They have also invented stories of our "attacks against civilians" and of a "violation of the understanding" that we should cease our attacks on the cities. They have also threatened our people.

[Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam at 0500 on 13 March substituted the following for the last sentence: They have also threatened to resume bombing the north and to intensify the aggressive war in the south.]

Our armed forces and people warn the aggressors that they should not forget their bitter failure in the north, and that they are facing a nation who has been fighting victoriously against them and who has never submitted to threats. The more crimes they commit, the deeper the hatred, the more fitting the punishment and the heavier the defeats they will invite upon themselves.

The Vietnamese people are deeply imbued with the truth that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom and are determined to exercise their sacred right of self-defence, to foil every plot of war intensification and prolongation of the U.S.-puppets, to fight to defend their homeland and their fatherland, and not let the aggressors and traitors continue to trample on their country.

The victories of our armed forces and people in the last 10 days have shown to the U.S.-puppets that with more than 1 million troops and thousands of aircraft, guns, tanks and warships, they still cannot keep the situation from worsening. Their "clear and hold" strategy and defensive plans have all proved ineffective. At present, they have had to fall back to protect key points, but at the same time to break their forces to defend the outer perimeter, thus causing further confusion in the deployment of their forces and sharpening the contradictions between concentration and dispersal and between defending cities and towns and holding out in the countryside.