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NORTH VIETNAM

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PLAF VICTORIES IN SOUTHERN BATTLES ACCLAIMED

Kontum Province

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1115 GMT 24 Mar 69 S

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 24 March commentary acclaiming recent victories of the Kontum PLAF]

[Text] In this Ky Dau spring, harmonizing with the high tide of brave offensive of the entire heroic south, the PLAF have, together with the compatriots of ethnic minorities in the high plateaus, dealt the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys very painful blows. Especially, the armed forces and people in Kontum Province have, with their firm and indomitable tradition, continuously fought and won, scoring resounding feats-of-arms.

On the night of 20 to 21 March, in a skilled, daring raid, the Kontum PLAF attacked the 1st Brigade headquarters of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division in Tan Phu, along Route 14, only seven kilometers from the Kontum provincial capital, scoring a new brilliant feat-of-arms. Closely coordinating spearheads, penetrating deeply, and attacking violently, in a short period of time the Kontum valiant combatants annihilated two U.S. companies, including an engineer and maintenance company, destroyed 100 military vehicles, including 12 big cranes, burned 4 fuel tanks, and blew up a military-truck repair shop, a chemical plant, 9 barracks, and 17 blockhouses and trenches. AFP reported: The Americans here acknowledged that they suffered heavy losses.

On 19 March, the Kontum Liberation Armed Forces also raided and annihilated a puppet infantry company at (Konkering), destroying four 105-mm artillery pieces, two tanks, and four (?trailers).

Let us enthusiastically acclaim the Kontum armed forces and people for a longly developing their active posture, repeatedly attacking the enemy, and continuously scoring glorious victories. For a month, the enemy-annihilating gunfire of the Kontum armed forces and people has resounded tremendously. The three categories of troops have coordinated combat harmoniously and closely, using every fighting method and dealing the U.S. and puppet troops heavy punitive blows everywhere, from the Kontum provincial capital to the (Solem), (Kirandra), (Kudo), (Chumai), (Sumaring), (Tung Trey), and Tan Phu areas.

The feats-of-arms of the Kontum armed forces and people in annihilating much enemy potential and destroying a substantial part of his war equipment prove that the more the PLAF in the high plateaus fight, the stronger they become, and the more vigorous offensive impetus, developing their past victories, the armed forces and people of ethnic minorities in the high plateaus, who have been forged and matured in the war, will certainly fight better, hit harder, and, together with the entire south, fight and drive the U.S.-puppets to complete defeat.

Quang Tri-Thua Thien

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0532 GMT 25 Mar 69 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 25--The Hanoi daily NHAN DAN today laid stress on the position of strength, the victorious mettle, and the spirit of continuous offensive of the PLAF and people of the highlands in Quang Tri-Thua Thien region.

NFLSV RESPONDS TO HO'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

Central Committee Letter

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1330 GMT 22 Mar 1969 S

[Letter from the NFLSV Central Committee in answer to President Ho's cable commending the early spring victories]

[Text] Respected and beloved President Ho, during the Ky Dau early spring days while the southern troops and people were launching the general offensive and continuous uprisings--attacking hundreds of targets of the Americans and puppets; attacking their major bases in cities and provincial capitals, their headquarters, airfields, ports, warehouses, logistics bases, roads, and waterways; achieving great success in annihilating their troops and destroying their war means; frustrating their schemes of pacifying and concentrating our people; enlarging the liberated areas; crushing the U.S. imperialists' cunning plot of speaking of peace while intensifying the war and the massacre of the southern people; and crushing their boastful propaganda arguments that the Viet Cong forces have been heavily decimated and sustained heavy defeats--your cable commending the early spring victories was received here, filling the hearts of all cadres, combatants, and compatriots with enthusiasm.

Respected and beloved President Ho, although the U.S. imperialists have sustained heavy defeats and encountered many great difficulties, they are still very stubborn. They still refuse to give up their aggressive design and to withdraw their troops from South Vietnam. They are intensifying their war of aggression to a very fierce degree. They are savagely massacring, terrorizing, and oppressing our compatriots in rural and urban areas.

They are endeavoring to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration--a stubborn, warlike, and extremely corrupt puppet clique--and to conscript youths in order to reinforce the puppet army and use it as a tool to implement their neocolonialism. Moreover, they are loudly threatening and slandering our people, but no cruel measures and no cunning plots can save the Americans from ignominious defeat and their puppets from complete collapse.

Having kept a firm hold on the factors of the "millions as one" solidarity bloc, the southern troops and people are determined to constantly develop their revolutionary offensive posture, keep the initiative on the battle field, confront the enemy more accurately, fight more cleverly, and arise strongly in order to deal the Americans and puppets stronger military and political blows, win greater and more comprehensive new victories, and advance toward winning complete victory and attaining these goals: independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity, and peaceful unification of the fatherland.

All the southern troops and people promise you to show themselves worthy of the commendations from you, the respected and beloved leader of our nation, and worthy of the confidence of our compatriots throughout the country and of brothers and friends the world over. The U.S. imperialist aggressors will surely be defeated ignominiously. Our people will surely win complete victory. We respectfully wish you good health and longevity.

For the NFLSV Central Committee, Chairman of the Presidium lawyer Nguyen-Huu Tho,
South Vietnam, 18 March 1969.

It was commenting on the smashing of operation Dewey Canyon conducted in the Co-Ca area by 7,000 U.S. and puppet troops from January 14 to March 15, during which period the PLAF and people wiped out nearly 2,900 enemy, mostly U.S. marines, that is three-sevenths of the enemy forces involved in the operation. They also overran a regimental hqs and a battalion hqs of the enemy, brought down 49 aircraft, demolished 17 cannon and seized a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment.

The paper brought out the tenacity of the PLAF which throughout the 50-day period fought the enemy relentlessly, in his arrival, during his regroupment and in his headlong flight.

The paper highly praised the splendid coordination of all the three kinds of people's armed forces, and their high combat efficiency. It recalled that while, in violent assaults, the infantry overran the hqs of the U.S. 9th Marine Regiment and the operational CP, the artillery scored direct hits on many enemy encampments, inflicting on the raiders very heavy losses. For their part, the regional army and guerillas by ambushes and sniper fire took a high toll of enemy troops while casting a vast ground fire net against enemy craft blocking enemy supplies and reinforcements.

The enemy's situation in Co-Ca Va became even more critical, the paper said, when the PLAF, in the month ending March 15, opened a series of assaults right in the plain and the towns which Dewey Canyon was meant to defend, putting out of action over 700 U.S.-puppet troops, shooting down five planes, destroying 47 military vehicles, and sinking four war vessels.

In conclusion, the paper said that the smashing of operation Dewey Canyon marked another failure of the enemy tactics of preventive operations.

High Plateaux

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Mar 69 B

[Text] During the past 20 days, from 23 February to 14 March, the armed forces and people of different ethnic nationalities on the central Vietnam high plateaux, with a surging revolutionary ardor, have continuously attacked more than 60 enemy military positions, wiping out or capturing more than 6,000 U.S.-puppet troops and shooting down or destroying on the ground 118 aircraft and many other war means of the enemy. QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on 21 March carried a commentary entitled "The Highlands Are Resounding With the Gunfire of Victory," acclaiming these brilliant victories. The commentary says chiefly as follows:

Rushing forward together with the whole of South Vietnam, the high plateaux have opened the Ky Dau spring with new, extremely resounding military exploits. Developing the victories of the high tide of general offensive and uprising, the highlands are continuing to hold aloft the banner of victory, fight powerfully and continuously, and successively drive the U.S.-puppets into an extremely precarious situation.

During the past 20 days, from 23 February to 14 March, the offensive gunfire of the armed forces and people has shaken almost all enemy positions, from strongholds in Kontum, Pleiku, Ban Me Thuot, and Cheo Reo provincial capitals to those in Tan Canh, Dakto, Bien Ho, and Lac Thien district capitals and towns; from the headquarters of the Second Army Corps, the 23d Division, the 24th special sector, and the 42d and 45th puppet regiments, to the airfields of Kontum, Dakto, (2A Ria), Phu Anh, Hoa Binh, and so forth.

Despite their heavy defenses, the U.S.-puppets were fiercely attacked. Even the puppet ranger centers at (?Plei Can), Duc Co, and (?Plei Merong), which the enemy considered well defended, could not avoid encirclements. The military bases or positions scattered in this highland region have become more isolated following PLAF attacks on the major communication lines, including Highways 14, 19, and 21. By hitting hard and accurately at enemy nerve organs, headquarters, bases, airfields, supply depots, and communication lines, the armed forces and people on the high plateaus have inflicted serious losses in life and war material on the enemy, making their position more precarious on this battlefield where they have taken great pains to improve their defenses.

The early spring victories of the highland armed forces and people constitute a new step forward in raising the combat capability of the Liberation Armed Forces. During the past 20 days, the latter wiped out or captured more than 6,000 enemy troops, among them 2,842 Americans, and inflicted serious losses on the Third Battalion of the First Brigade, 4th U.S. Infantry Division. They knocked out or heavily decimated 17 companies and 22 platoons of U.S.-puppet troops, shot down or destroyed on the ground 118 aircraft, wrecked 508 military vehicles, and burned thousands of tons of enemy fuel, arms, or war equipment. They blew up thousands of oil pipes sections, hundreds of bunkers or blockhouses, and so forth. These resounding victories indicate the rather high combat efficiency of the heroic highland armed forces and people.

A new and remarkable feature is that they have thrashed the enemy, despite all his precautionary measures, and have struck several of his positions three, or even four times. The highland armed forces and people have attacked the enemy not only in his hideouts and bases but also around his base camps, foiling Abrams' designs and defense-in-depth strategy on the high plateaus.

The high combat efficiency of the armed forces and people on the highlands over the past over 20 days reflects their increasing strength. It proves that the more they fight, the stronger they become and the bigger exploits they win.

Parallel with their military offensive, the highland armed forces and people also rose up powerfully to destroy nearly 30 strategic hamlets and concentration camps, track down the puppet and pacification agents, and to regain control of several areas. The newly liberated zone was expanded and the revolutionary ardor extended its influence even into the temporarily occupied zone. The people of the various ethnic nationalities are enthusiastically building a revolutionary force, developing the movement of guerrilla warfare and unflinchingly defending their (?villages and fields).

These new military and political victories have testified to the capability of the highland armed forces and people, both in wiping out a large number of enemy forces and in maintaining and developing their right to govern, thus creating a new strength which acts as a stable basis for advancing to complete victory. The new victories of the highlands herald more battles and steady uprisings which will continue to develop on all battlefields. Rushing forward with the impetus of their victories, the highland armed forces and people are determined to fight powerfully, to deal stinging blows to the U.S.-puppets, and to completely defeat them.

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It was commenting on the smashing of operation Dewey Canyon conducted in the Cao Bang area by 7,000 U.S. and puppet troops from January 14 to March 15, during which period the PLAF and people wiped out nearly 2,900 enemy, mostly U.S. Marines, that is three-sevenths of the enemy forces involved in the operation. They also overran a regimental hqs and a battalion hqs of the enemy, brought down 49 aircraft, demolished 17 cannon and seized a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment.

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