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SOUTH VIETNAM

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AIRCRAFT HUNT-AND-DESTROY CAMPAIGN STEPPED UP

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[Article: "During the first 6 months of the year, the southern troops and people destroyed many enemy aircraft"]

[Text] During the past 6 months, on all battlefields, the movement to destroy enemy aircraft has been violent. From Tri-Thien to Ca Mau, from the delta to the mountainous areas, our troops and people annihilated a great number of enemy aircraft: The Tri-Thien-Hue troops annihilated about 500 aircraft; The Central Trung Bo troops annihilated 1,050 aircraft; The western Nam Bo troops annihilated 259 aircraft, and so forth.

With many daring, lively, and resourceful fighting methods and with the wholehearted assistance of the people, our armed forces overcame all troublesome weather and topography and used all kinds of weapons to strike enemy aircraft. As a result, under all circumstances, our PLAF succeeded in annihilating many planes as they dropped or picked up troops or attacked our positions.

In Tri-Thien-Hue where the aircraft-hunting-and-annihilating movement has been fierce, the number of planes destroyed or downed by our forces has [been] increasing. In January 1970, the Tri-Thien-Hue troops annihilated only 43 planes. During the first 22 days of February, the number of destroyed planes increased by 50 percent. Of the total number of about 500 planes downed over the Tri-Thien-Hue [area] during the past 6 months, 224 were hit by rifle fire 70 [words indistinct], and 289 were downed on the spot.

The aircraft-hunting and-destroying movement in central Trung Bo and western Nam Bo has been no less active than that in Tri-Thien-Hue. On many battlefields, the PLAF chose opportune moments to destroy enemy aircraft. For instance, in Quang Nam Province, in an attack on the Chu Lai base, our forces destroyed 165 U.S. aircraft. In Vinh Long Province, in three attacks on the Vinh Long airfield in January, March, and April, our troops destroyed 57 planes and annihilated about 100 pilots and technical personnel. On the Hiep Duc battlefield in Quang Nam Province, where the number of downed aircraft was the highest in central Trung Bo, in only 40 days and nights, from 30 April to 12 June, our troops spread a thick fire net around the Hiep Duc district capital, firing at enemy planes dropping reinforcements and supplies, downing about 162 aircraft. On the Dak Sun front in Kontum Province, in 25 days, from 31 March to 24 April, the liberation troops' antiaircraft fire net downed 62 planes. As many as 10 planes were downed in one day.

During the past 6 months, the plane-hunting-and-annihilating network of the guerrilla war has spread everywhere. Many aircraft were downed [words indistinct] the skill of guerrillas and regional troops throughout South Vietnam. Guerrilla antiaircraft units have been present on all battlefields, ready to fire at all enemy aircraft. Guerrilla combatants in [some] localities have developed many bold and creative fighting methods, frightening the enemy out of his wits.

In Dien Ban, Quang Da Province, on 17 May, the guerrillas lured a helicopter into a trap and waited until it got down close to the ground before they hurled grenades onto it, blowing it to pieces. In Darlac, the guerrillas of village KKK, after having downed a helicopter, ambushed a puppet platoon coming to rescue its pilot, annihilating all the rescuers. In Quang Da, on 19 April, the guerrillas of Hoa Vang downed a plane carrying a U.S. Marine major general and five field-grade officers. On 12 May, guerrillas in Gia Lai Province, downed an aircraft carrying a U.S. general and a number of field-grade officers.

Obviously, our southern armed forces and people's success in destroying 4,200 U.S. aircraft of various types and annihilating many U.S. pilots and technicians in the first 6 of 1970 has been an outstanding armed exploit. By destroying many aircraft, the most modern war means, and many pilots and technicians--a force that costs time and money to be trained--our armed forces and people have embarrassed the U.S. aggressors and their puppets.

To implement Vietnamization, the Americans have intensively used aircraft to replace infantry in the hope of reducing U.S. casualties and strengthening puppet troops' very low morale so that the latter can replace U.S. troops gradually and bear the war burden in line with the formula: "U.S. fire-power plus puppet infantry."

But these dark designs have disastrously failed. The 4,200 aircraft which have been downed or destroyed in South Vietnam have demonstrated the disastrous failure of their Vietnamization. This has dealt a heavy blow of modern weapons. By downing and destroying 4,200 aircraft, our troops and people not only destroyed an important part of enemy military strength and equipment, but also further shattered his morale and effectiveness on the battlefield.

The U.S.-puppet troops have relied on their modern war material as a talisman whenever they came out of or retreated to their positions. Nevertheless, their modern war materiel, such as their aircraft, has been smashed to pieces by our troops and people, making them embarrassed and lowering their morale.

From the economic and political viewpoint, their heavy losses in aircraft and war equipment during the past 6 months constitute frightful figures that have inevitably affected the U.S. economy, contributed to making inflation in the United States even more serious, and caused a stir among the U.S. public, thus heightening the movement among Americans to oppose the Nixon administration's war in Vietnam.

At present, in expanding the war of aggression to all of Indochina, the U.S. imperialists are forced to thin out their airpower throughout the three battlefields. As a result, their firepower support will be scattered. The weblike anti-aircraft network of the three Indochinese troops and peoples will down many more U.S. aircraft.

Developing the victories scored and holding firmly to their advantages, the southern troops and people will accelerate the aircraft-hunting-and-destroying movement more strongly and widely than ever before.