

W
FILE / SUBJ.
DATE / SUB-CAT.
9/70

VIII. HANOI APPLAUDS TRI-THIEN PLAF

NW-101

[Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese, 0430 GMT,
22 September 1970]

Hailing the armed forces and people of valiant and stalwart western Tri-Thien for their new military feat in annihilating nearly 1,500 men of the puppet 1st regiment at Coc Bai, today's Quan Doi Nhan Dan commentary said:

During 41 days and nights of fierce fighting, despite a hail of enemy bombs and bullets, the Tri-Thien PLAF combatants stalwartly held onto their combat position; created their own opportunities; applied many vivid, intelligent fighting methods; and dealt appropriate punitive blows at the puppet 1st regiment which was supported by U.S. troops, aircraft, and artillery. They tightly encircled and unremittingly attacked the enemy base while intercepting the enemy troops who edged out for evacuation and rescue operations. As a result of close coordination among the three troop categories, the Tri-Thien PLAF achieved great combat efficiency.

U.S. aircraft and artillery are always backing puppet troops, but this time they failed to develop their power and to save the puppet troops from heavy losses. In fact, U.S. artillery had to pull out of a base camp while U.S. aircraft, which were downed or destroyed in great numbers, dared not venture out to rescue the puppet troops. Moreover, air supply operations encountered difficulties created by PLAF heavy gunfire. (AP on 11 August and AFP on 13 August).

Once again, the puppet troops plus U.S. gunfire' formula was bankrupted on the valiant Tri-Thien territory. The U.S. -puppets have striven to rebuild their defense line in western Thua Thien, their base on Hill 935, and had to increase their forces at Coc Bai with a view to carrying out their defense-in-depth tactic, consolidating their defensive position in cities, and achieving their pacification plan in the coastal plains.

They have been trying to defend these positions during the rainy season in order to ward off more serious blows during the coming dry season, but they have not been able to realize their dream. If U.S. troops were battered and forced to withdraw from Hill 935, how can puppet troops cope with the Tri-Thien FLAF's offensive?

By hitting the enemy hard on Hill 935 and at Da Ban and Coc Bai, the Tri-Thien armed forces and people have forced the enemy to fan out his troops. The enemy's troops are pinned down and are sustaining serious losses in the mountain areas. This enables guerrilla warfare to develop in annihilating the enemy and gives support to our compatriots in their uprising to smash enemy bondage and regain mastership rights.

A close coordination between attacks and uprising in the three strategic areas in Tri-Thien is helping to comprehensively develop the people's war which is advancing to frustrate the enemy pacification scheme and score even greater victories.

In the Coc Bai area, the U.S. aggressors and the puppet troops have sustained serious defeats but they are still very stubborn. The Americans have been using numerous aircraft, including F-52's to bomb and do all they can to give relief to the puppet troops and to salvage their pitiful defeats in the mountains.

The fighting in this area is becoming decisive and the Tri-Thien armed forces and people, as they develop their new victories and the glorious, indomitable, stalwart attacks and uprisings, will hit the enemy even harder in order to turn Coc Bai into a new U.S. -puppet Hamburger Hill, as was already done at A Bia and Hill 935.