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X. LIBERATION RADIO'S ROUND-UP
OF OCTOBER URBAN STRUGGLES

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Despite the Thieu clique's large-scale repressive campaign dubbed "for the people" conducted in the forms of searches, round-ups and wanton arrests, the urban people's struggle for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and against the dictatorial and fascist regime of Thieu-Ky-Khiem kept intensifying last October.

Along with their claim for peace, their welcome to the new peace initiative of the RSVN PRG, broad sections of the Saigon population including "members of parliament" openly criticized Nixon's October 7 speech which they said was only a propaganda ploy to gain votes for his Party in the November 3 Congressional elections.

Worthy of note is the founding of the "Popular Front for Peace" on October 11 in Saigon comprising representatives of different sections of the population, mass organizations, trades and even a number of members of the Saigon "Parliament." In its manifesto, the Front resolutely urged the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam as a precondition to restore peace in Viet-Nam and the establishment of a legitimate "representative administration" in South Viet Nam.

On October 29, at the "Lower House" of the Saigon regime, many deputies denounced the illegal character of the U.S. intervention in South Viet-Nam. They pointed out that the U.S. military and economic aid to South Viet-Nam is at variance with the Saigon regime's constitution as it was never approved by its "Parliament."

Many retired puppet army generals, ex-leaders of the coup d'etat which overthrew Ngo Dinh Diem's regime, held a meeting where they energetically criticized the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. "Only a government trusted by the people and composed of authentic representatives of the people can restore peace in South Viet Nam," said one of them.

The urban people's struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys' fascist policy last month was manifested by their indignation and protest against the U.S. puppets' bloody repression of political prisoners in Poulo Condor island and other jails in South Viet-Nam.

After a statement was issued by the Committee of the People for the Right to Live denouncing the murder of 25 prisoners and wounding of many others in Poulo Condor island jail by the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, a wave of indignation swept Saigon and other cities in South Viet-Nam. In its four-point statement issued at a press conference, the Saigon Students' General Association sternly condemned the U.S.- puppets' crimes against the prisoners in Poulo Condor, Thu Duc, Chi Hoa, and Quang Ngai jails.

The Committee for Improvement of the Prison Regime, established on October 25 in Saigon, issued a manifesto urging the U.S.-puppets to end their bloody suppression of prisoners, particularly those in Poulo Condor jail and to improve the prison regime. Many Saigon papers voiced support for the urban people's struggle against the blood-thirsty U.S. aggressors and Thieu-Ky-Khiem traitors.

Last month, students in Saigon, Hue, Can Tho, and Buddhist students of the Van Hanh Institute continued to fight against repression and terror, for the abolition of compulsory military training in universities and respect for university autonomy. Noteworthy was the students' protest against the illegal arrest of Miss Huynh Kim Cho and 10 other students on October 21. The Saigon Students' General Association denounced these arrests as mean acts of retaliation and demanded immediate release of all detainees.

The puppet army war wounded held many press conferences, handed in petitions and staged hunger strikes in protest against the Thieu puppet administration's illegal arrests of their leaders and destruction of their dwelling houses. They hit the headlines with the 96-hour fast by 52 leaders of the said movement beginning October 24.

The Thieu clique's devaluation of the piastre caused the soaring of prices, making the urban people's life still more precarious.

Leading the wave of the struggle for the right to live throughout South Viet Nam was the strike for higher wages on October 7 of some 200 women workers at the U.S. military building site in Tan Son Nhut airbase. Then came the October 8 hunger strike of 20 firemen of the Pacific firm.

Some 2,000 workers of the Island construction site of the American BMK-ERJ firm in Thu Duc on October 13 staged an indefinite hunger strike for a 30 percent wage lift. This struggle enjoyed strong support and warm sympathy from trade unions of different firms. The strike of over 18,000 workers of the afore-said firm in Saigon, Gia Binh, Vung Tau, Ea Ria, Vinh Long, and My Tho areas on October 23 paralyzed all its activity.

Besides, the Committee for the People's Interests, the Committee of Women's Action for the Right to Live, the Movement for National Self-Determination, the Educational Workers' Trade Unions, and the Federation of Saigon Buddhist Employees issued statements and petitions demanding higher wages to cope with the current rising cost of living and a guarantee for their normal life and jobs.

Parallel with the political struggle for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and restoration of peace, the struggle for the right to live is spreading among different strata of the urban population, even among the members of the puppet administration and army, business circles and members of the Saigon "Parliament," thus spurring the urban people's struggle and driving the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys into further isolation and confusion.