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IV. 9 Jan 75

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

AFF, FRONT RADIO REPORT ON FIGHTING IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Spokesman Confirms Loc Ninh, Bu Dop Bombings

Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 9 Jan 75 BK

[Excerpt] Saigon, Jan 9 (AFP)--Highway 1 was cut today after national liberation troops last night blew up a 28-yard (meter) bridge 63 miles (100 kms) north of Hoai Nhon (Xinh Dinh Province) where heavy fighting was reported on three fronts around the town.

A government military spokesman said the NLF had attacked Hoai Nhon 440 kms (255 miles) from Saigon from the west, the northwest and southwest but they had been thrown back at a cost of nine dead and 15 wounded in government rank and 75 NFL men killed. Road traffic was reported to be normal at Hoai Nhon.

Government aviation intervened repeatedly yesterday in Binh Dinh coastal province and had destroyed six communist Molotova lorries and four anti-aircraft batteries, the spokesman said.

The spokesman confirmed that government bombers had carried out heavy bombing raids on the Loc Ninh and Bu Dop districts over the past 2 days, for these areas were the main troops billeting areas for anti-government forces and the bridgehead for their successful offensive on Phuoc Long Province.

Meanwhile no news has reached Saigon of the 26,000 inhabitants of Phuoc Binh days after the provincial capital fell into NLF hands. The number of casualties was also not known.

The spokesman said government aviation was continuing to overfly Phuoc Long Province trying to spot civilians and government men who fled the town.

Air Raids Reported On NFL-Held Areas

Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 8 Jan 75 BK

[Text] Saigon, Jan 8 (AFP)--Government planes yesterday and today made heavy reprisal bombing raids on two Viet Cong-held areas about 100 kms (63 miles) north of Saigon while communist forces attacked government positions in the coastal provinces of Binh Tuy and Binh Dinh further north, a high command spokesman said.

The air raids followed the fall of the provincial capital Phuoc Binh, giving communists control of all of Phuoc Long Province. They were on Bu Dop, in northern Phuoc Long Province near the Cambodian border, where there is a small air strip, and the area around Loc Ninh in Tay Ninh Province where the Provisional Revolutionary Government has its headquarters.

In Binh Tuy Province, 130 kms (81 miles) northeast of Saigon, government troops fought off a communist attack on the district town of Hoai Duc after communist artillery had fired more than 100 shells on military headquarters there. Yesterday there was fighting near the city and two villages were hit by more than 100 mortar shells.

There have been repeated attacks on Hoai Duc since the communists seized the subsector of Tanh Linh on Dec 25. In Binh Dinh Province, 220 kms (137 miles) further north, 200 communist troops were killed in heavy fighting on the outskirts of the provincial capital of Hoai Nhon. Government losses were 17 killed and 27 wounded. Several government positions north and west of Hoai Nhon were under heavy artillery attack. Meanwhile Tay Ninh airport, 90 kms (56 miles) northwest of Saigon, was hit by 14 artillery shells yesterday.

Front Radio Report

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 2200 GMT 8 Jan 75 SG

[Text] On 8 January 1975, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, encouraged and assisted by the United States, noisily voiced its concern over the compatriots in Phuoc Long city, while having F-5 and A-37 aircraft make dozens of sorties to drop (?600) bombs on Loc Ninh township and its vicinity.

The U.S.-Thieu clique's bombs destroyed the central area of the Loc Ninh market; Bung hamlet, Loc Thai village; and the Loc Tan and Hoa Lu dam areas. The (Cay Phuong) road junction was also heavily damaged. Many of our compatriots were killed or injured, including many old people, women and children, and hundreds of houses were destroyed. In Loc Ninh township alone, the Ninh Phuoc and Ninh Phu wards were leveled. The Phuoc Long and Tu Quang pagodas and the Loc Ninh church were also destroyed. All four members of Mr Nguyen Van Phuc's family in the Ninh Phuoc ward were seriously injured.

Earlier, on 7 January, the U.S.-Thieu clique's C-130 aircraft dropped about 200 incendiary bombs on the Loc Ninh market area. Many houses in the Ninh Phuoc and Ninh Phu wards were destroyed, and five people were seriously injured. This was the 17th time that the U.S.-Thieu clique has dropped bombs aimed at intentionally annihilating this township, causing untold hardship to our people. The bombings were entirely aimed at the densely populated areas, schools, pagodas, churches and other public utility facilities in the locality.

COMMENTARY: PHUOC LONG 'PUNITIVE BLOW' AGAINST U.S.-THIEU

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1400 GMT 8 Jan 75 SG

[Station commentary: "Attacking and Destroying the Enemy Military Base in Phuoc Long Provincial Capital: An Appropriate Punitive Blow at the U.S.-Thieu Clique That Has Sabotaged the Agreement"]

[Text] With U.S. support and assistance and under direct U.S. command, the warlike Nguyen Van Thieu clique has further embarked on its path of continuing the war, sabotaging the agreement and committing countless crimes against our compatriots. The enemy military base in Phuoc Long provincial capital was a large-sized staging area from which the U.S.-Thieu clique launched its military operations. This clique used this base, the Bo Duc district military sector, and the Duc Phong, Bu Na, and Dong Xoai district military sectors and other vital areas as springboards for pacification, nibbling, and rice-looting operations. The U.S.-Thieu clique also sent commando and reconnaissance units from these areas to sabotage our liberated zone and carry out its nibbling scheme.

Because the enemy military base in Phuoc Long provincial capital was located on the enemy's outer defensive line north of Saigon, blocked the areas north of Route 14, and directly defended the areas along the eastern flank of Route 13, the U.S.-Thieu clique built this into a sturdy base. In addition to establishing closely-woven post systems around the base, this clique also built a system of underground tunnels that could accommodate hundreds of men carrying plenty of weapons, munitions and food in an attempt to conduct an all-out resistance for many days and wait for reinforcements.

Strictly executing the PLAF command order to punish the enemy for conducting pacification, nibbling and rice-looting operations, the Binh Phuoc armed forces and people launched a relentless, vigorous offensive wave against scores of enemy bases and posts in the Phuoc Long area.

In only a little more than 20 days, from mid-December 1974 to 7 January 1975, the Phuoc Long PLAF wiped out nearly 60 enemy posts, bases, district capitals and military sectors, and vital military areas on a line of more than 100 kms, along Route 14 and from Duc Phong to Bu Na and Dong Xoai; and finally the largest staging base in Phuoc Long, from which the enemy launched military operations, was destroyed by our armed forces.

At this enemy military base in Phuoc Long provincial capital, in only 3 days of stalwart, brave fighting--from 4 to 6 January 1975--we put thousands of enemy troops out of action; annihilated three civil guard battalions, one airborne commando battalion, a main force battalion, three artillery, armored and field police companies and 20 people's self-defense platoons; shot down four helicopters and transport planes; and seized all weapons and war materiel.

We warmly acclaim the very outstanding consecutive military exploits of the Binh Phuoc PLAF. In this series of glorious, great victories, our three troop categories and armed branches achieved close combat coordination. The main force units, including infantry forces and technical armed services, fought decisive battles, achieved high combat efficiency and rapidly destroyed in succession an enemy military base, district military sector and vital military area. In harmonious coordination with the main force units, the local forces and guerrillas and the compatriots wiped out enemy posts and cut off communications routes. Tens of thousands of compatriots vigorously arose to smash the coercive enemy apparatus and gained control.

The Phuoc Long victory, together with the great victories on the front against enemy pacification and nibbling operations in the Nam Bo Delta and central Trung Bo, reflects the strong, victorious position of our southern armed forces and people and the weakened position of the U.S.-Thieu clique. If this clique does not learn these hot lessons of failure and stubbornly continues the war, sabotages the agreement and pursues its criminal pacification and nibbling scheme, it will still have to endure even more grave consequences.

Our armed forces and people throughout the south, elatedly and enthusiastically acclaiming the Phuoc Long victory, are ever more firmly confident of their strength and will accelerate their struggle to resolutely force the U.S.-Thieu clique to renounce all of its sinister schemes and to scrupulously implement the Paris agreement on Vietnam.