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Newsletter on Life in Danang

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[Newsletter from South Vietnam, based on LPA reports: "Jubilantly Celebrate Liberation"]

[Summary] Hanoi, 11 April--"We entered Danang on 30 March 1975--the second day after its liberation. The whole city was in a jubilant mood celebrating liberation. The grounds were littered with the tattered 'three-stripe flags' of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique. Brilliant red and blue, red-starred flags of the PRGSRV were hoisted at city hall, other former enemy-occupied office buildings and military bases. Former enemy military bases were all in disorder. The military training center which provided the U.S.-Nguyen Van Thieu clique with cannonfodder was destroyed. Nearly 10 planes in good shape awaited their new masters to fly them at the military airfield, which was strewn with dirt. The Saigon puppet first army base was cluttered with cars of various types, artillery pieces and ammunition. Undamaged armored vehicles and long-barreled artillery guns were left in the streets."

Danang--the former barracks city--was quickly transformed into a people's city following 1 day of fighting.

More than 1 million Danang people put the city under their control immediately after hearing the first round of gun shots fired by the advancing liberation army. They acted quickly to control enterprises and office buildings and protected them from destruction by the enemy. On the evening of liberation, the Danang power plant continued to provide electricity to the city, thanks to the workers' efforts to protect their plant. Although 30 March was Sunday, the power plant workers remained at their posts. In addition to taking care of the plant, workers were also assigned to check power lines throughout the city. Workers at waterworks and other factories also worked diligently. According to the railway workers, prior to their evacuation the enemy tried to destroy all the railway equipment and facilities. But the workers struggled heroically to prevent them from doing so. Now locomotives and trains are in good condition and are ready to be put into service again. The railway workers are prepared to accept the call from the revolutionary government.

"As the city assumes the tempo of a new life, the radio stations, hospitals, and schools have been quickly reactivated. Responsible persons and all workers of radio stations have turned over Radio Danang to the revolutionary government and demanded reinstatement. The Duy Tan general hospital originally under the puppet army's control, the second largest of its kind in South Vietnam, is now being reorganized in order to serve the people.

"Among the people celebrating liberation on 30 March were former puppet officers and men, policemen and puppet administration personnel who surrendered to the people. They were also elated by the introduction of the new life. When Danang was liberated, nearly 10,000 puppet officers and men, policemen, and puppet administration's personnel deserted the Nguyen Van Thieu clique and surrendered to the people. They have since received lenient treatment from the revolutionary government."

There are continuing flows of cars and people across Danang. Propaganda radio vehicles are moving around the city, blaring revolutionary slogans and songs celebrating liberation. Many old and young people who were forced by the U.S. puppet Saigon clique to live in the concentrated camps have now returned home.

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The heroic liberation army's armored and artillery units arrived amid applause from the people, who lined the routes to the city. The people appeared proud and excited. Old men and women waved their hands to greet the advancing liberation army. Some children mounted the wrecked enemy tanks to welcome their liberators.

By nightfall, Danang was dotted with electric lights. People from 19 neighborhoods in the city gathered at a stadium to watch the colored revolutionary films shown by the revolutionary government.

"Danang is a city known for its national patriotic tradition. In the 1950's, it witnessed the disgraceful retreat and evacuation of the French expeditionary army, and on 29 July 1973, that of the U.S. expeditionary army. On 29 March 1975, it saw the disastrous defeat of the U.S.-Nguyen Van Thieu clique. That day of the liberation of Danang marks an end to slavery that spanned 117 years; it marks the beginning of a new life."