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RVN SPOKESMAN: NEW DEFENSE LINE ESTABLISHED AT PHAN RANG

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 17 Apr 75 Evening Edition SG

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[Text] Saigon, (VP) April 17--The ARVN has formed a new defense line in southern part of Phan Rang provincial capital to preserve its strength due to communist North Vietnam's strong pressure.

Military Spokesman Lt Col Le Trung Hein told the press briefing this morning from the morning to noon April 15, the communists rained artillery rounds into Phan Rang city and then their three divisions supported by tanks attacked it, exerting heavy pressure on ARVN units positions.

Government troops repulsed the attacks, shot down 100 enemy and destroyed 20 Red tanks. In the afternoon the same day, while the battle was taking place Mr Tran Van Don, deputy prime minister in charge of inspection concurrently defense minister, observed the front and reviewed the situation with Lt Gen Nguyen Vinh Nghi, forward command commander in Phan Rang, and Lt Gen Nguyen Van Toan, commander of Corps III and MR III.

To preserve strength, paratroopers, infantrymen, airmen, RF and PF had formed a new defense line.

IPA CITED ON PIAF BATTLE SUCCESSES IN NINH THUAN PROVINCE

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[Text] Hanoi VNA April 16--The people and their armed forces in Ninh Thuan, Nguyen Van Thieu's home province, more than 100 kms northeast of Saigon, by April 15 wiped out many enemy troops and crushed the enemy's resistance in many key military positions and base camps, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY (IPA). These positions included the railway station area, Thanh Son Airport, the advance headquarters of the 30 army corps, the bases of the 2d Airborne Brigade and the Ranger Forces, IPA said.

The people in Phan Rang, capital of Ninh Thuan, and other districts rose up and smashed the enemy's coercive machinery, the agency reported.

Earlier, on April (14), the people's forces had attacked and seized control of the military subsector and capital of Krong Poa district, liberating eight villages including 48 hamlets with nearly 80,000 people.

Fighting was going on, IPA said.

RVN DEFENSE MINISTER DON URGES DETERMINATION TO FIGHT

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[Text] Saigon, (VP) April 17--Mr Tran Van Don, deputy prime minister in charge of inspection concurrently minister of defense, Wednesday warned military commanders that "should we want to live in freedom, we must determinedly go on fighting and hold fast the remaining territory, otherwise, we will lose all and die disgracefully."

He made the warning on the observation tour of frontline units in MR III.

In the struggle against the Americans and their puppets, the Ninh Thuan people were among the first to stage mass uprisings in the Bac Ai area. They launched repeated attacks against the enemy in Phan Rang city, at the Thanh Son airfield and in Thuan Nam, Thuan Bac and Bac Ai, driving the Americans and their puppets into an apprehensive situation.

Over the past 2 years, the Ninh Thuan armed forces and people, resolutely punishing the U.S.-Thieu clique for sabotaging the Paris agreement and committing war crimes, destroyed its coercive machinery in many areas. Since early March, taking advantage of the enemy's confusion and panic they have surged forward courageously, coordinated attacks with vigorous uprisings, satisfactorily implemented the revolution's love-filled motivation policy toward puppet soldiers and, as a result, completely destroyed the enemy's coercive machinery and liberated Phan Rang city and all the districts of Ninh Thuan Province.

The liberation of Ninh Thuan, following the liberation of Tuyen Duc on 4 April and Lam Dong on 28 March, has further enhanced the prestige of the revolution in southern Trung Bo.

Thus, the enemy's plan to maintain absolute security in southern Trung Bo has been completely smashed. The fate of the puppets in Binh Thuan and Binh Tuy is like a lamp flickering in the wind.

In recent days, the Thieu clique has clamorously urged its troops to defend the remaining territory and launch counterattacks to recapture the lost areas. Its military spokesman and a handful of Thieu's bootlickers have brazenly fabricated reports of imaginary victories by the puppet troops in Phan Thiet, Long Khanh, Long An and many areas of the Nam Bo delta. These fabricated reports can neither shore up the morale of the Thieu clique's troops nor deceive anyone.

The results of the current attacks and uprisings of the southern armed forces and people--who have liberated Ninh Thuan Province, put out of action thousands of the enemy in Xuan Loc and repeatedly shelled the Bien Hoa airfield, destroying many aircraft and annihilating many aggressor pilots--are striking proof which burst all of the enemy's psychological warfare allegations like soap bubbles.

The recent bombing of Thieu's palace has further exposed the tragic isolation of the bellicose clique in Saigon. The boastful claims of this filthy clique of Vietnamese traitors can neither conceal their apprehension and fright in the face of imminent death nor cover up their precarious position and their irreversible collapse.

Meanwhile, the offensive and uprising of the southern armed forces and people are developing so vigorously that no strength can check them. By liberating Ninh Thuan Province and Phan Rang city, the southern compatriots and PLAF have acquired more favorable conditions to advance toward winning new, greater victories.

Binh Thuan Province

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 2300 GMT 20 Apr 75 SG

[NHAN DAN 21 April editorial: "Salute to Completely Liberated Binh Thuan Province and Phan Thiet City"]

[Text] The news of victory from the battlefield in southernmost Trung Bo is elating our armed forces and people throughout the country. Binh Thuan Province and Phan Thiet city have been completely liberated.

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Binh Thuan is the 19th province in South Vietnam to be regained by the people. It is the last province in Trung Bo to be liberated.

Binh Thuan Province, although not large or heavily populated, is well-known for its glorious history of revolutionary struggle. Since the end of the 19th century, Binh Thuan has been a land of many patriotic movements, such as the Dong Chau Sa, Van Than and Dong Kinh Nghia Thuc movements, and an area of operations of many well-known patriots. Binh Thuan Province and Phan Thiet city once received President Ho when, as a young man, he came to live and work there before his departure from the fatherland to find a way to save the country and to bring glory to our nation. In the resistance against the French colonialists, the Binh Thuan people were severely terrorized and oppressed by the enemy, but they overcame untold difficulties and hardships, struggled valiantly and tenaciously, and won glorious victories.

In the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance, Binh Thuan was encircled by a thick network of military posts. But with stalwart will, the Binh Thuan armed forces and people, despite the extremely difficult circumstances, staged simultaneous attacks everywhere. Thousands of U.S. and puppet troops were put out of action. Hundreds of aircraft and military vehicles were destroyed.

During more than 2 years of struggle to protect the Paris agreement, the Binh Thuan combatants and compatriots have successively smashed many encroachment and pacification operations by the U.S.-Thieu clique and maintained their areas of control.

The stormy attacks and uprisings of the southern armed forces and people since March have strongly encouraged the Binh Thuan compatriots to bravely surge forward and score new feats of arms. Grasping the favorable opportunity resulting from the great victories in Tay Ninh, Thua Thien-Hue, Danang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and elsewhere, the Binh Thuan armed forces and people staged bold attacks on the important enemy positions and organs. Taking advantage of the puppet administration's and army's disintegration the Binh Thuan compatriots staged uprisings to break the enemy's grip and regain control over almost all of the vast rural areas. The remnant enemy troops were regrouped in Phan Rang, Nha Trang and Phan Thiet and other cities to set up an outer defense line to protect the areas still under enemy control in Nam Bo and Saigon. The enemy boasted that he was standing firm in these areas, that his flight had ended and that his counteroffensive to retake the lost land had begun.

Upon the U.S.-Thieu clique's order, puppet Deputy Prime Minister Tran Van Don recklessly went to Phan Rang to encourage the puppet troops and directly order them to withdraw in order to preserve their strength. [as heard] But after he visited Phan Rang on the afternoon of 15 April, the Binh Thuan liberation troops on the morning of 16 April launched massive attacks from all directions on Phan Rang city and airfield, annihilating or capturing all of the enemy troops.

The battle to liberate Phan Rang city was a wonderful annihilating battle. By bravely attacking the enemy, penetrating his positions and rapidly dividing his formations, the liberation troops drove him into a position from which he was unable to counterattack and was forced to lay down his weapons to surrender. Within only a few hours, our troops completely smashed the enemy resistance in this relatively big city. The extremely brave attack by the Binh Thuan armed forces and people on Phan Rang city terrified the Thieu troops in Phan Thiet.