

LPA CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON NEW LIFE OF EX-RVN SOLDIERS

Hanoi VNA in English 1601 GMT 29 Apr 75 OW

[By LPA correspondent: "The New Road for Former Saigon Soldiers"]

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 29--Morning of April 20, 1975: after the first shower of the season, the sky over liberated Ban Me Thuot was unusually clear and blue. People in gaily coloured clothes flooded the streets of this highland provincial capital, beginning a new workday at the offices, factories and rubber plantations. Everyone looked fresh and happy. Among them we saw hundreds of ex-soldiers of the Saigon army. They had shrugged off their military uniforms and thrown away their weapons to start a new, honest life.

I saw again Vu Van Lac living on Ton That Thuyet street, a former private in the Saigon army, who once confided to me: "Before I became a soldier, I worked as a mechanic. Now, I want to return to my old job." His desire has come true. Together with some friends, he has opened a repair shop to repair motorcycles, bicycles and occasionally also some trucks of the liberation army.

Nguyen Lang, an ex-lieutenant colonel working at the military hospital in Darlac has also found for himself a worthy role in the new regime. Deeply impressed by the lenient policy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, he expressed the wish to return to the hospital and resume his old job. His request has been granted. Two other former officers working at the hospital have also come back to the hospital with Nguyen Lang.

Ex-captain Tran Van Tam, formerly a psychological warfare officer in the 23rd Infantry Division of the puppet army, told me of his bitter experiences: "I did nothing except tell lies. I used my mouth to deceive the soldiers but I myself was deceived by the senior officers."

Overcome with emotion, he paused a while then continued. "Now I've seen the truth. I hate myself for having served as a stooge of the U.S. aggressors to oppose my own people and nation. The revolution has shown me the right path toward an honest life. From now on, I can earn my living not with lies and deception but with my two hands."

REPORTS CITE NORMAL LIFE IN QUANG NGAI, OTHER LIBERATED AREAS

Life in Quang Ngai

Hanoi VNA in English 1609 GMT 25 Apr 75 BK

["The Light of Revolution" by an LPA correspondent--VNA heading]

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25--I met Nguyen Van Minh at a get-together between officials of the educational committee of Quang Ngai Province and the directors and teachers from 13 secondary schools in the provincial capital. We discussed the time table for the reopening of classes after liberation.

Nguyen Van Minh, deputy director of Nghia Thuc school, had taken part in many anti-Thieu demonstrations including the big parade held on October 17, 1973 by 17,000 citizens of Quang Ngai demanding the overthrow of Nguyen van Thieu and strict implementation of the Paris agreement.

He said: "In the past, most of us intellectuals have known of the widespread corruption in the Thieu regime and the necessity to overthrow it. However, we did not understand the revolution quite well. When President Ho Chi Minh passed away, we mourned him. But to tell the truth, not until yesterday when we attended the meeting of more than 60,000 people in the provincial capital to welcome the success of the revolution did I realize how immense his contribution to the cause of national liberation has been and how deeply our people love him. One scene deeply impressed me: It was raining. A girl of about 12 took off her conical hat to protect President Ho's portrait".

Ms Hong Ngoc, a literature teacher at Tran Quoc Tuan school, said: "I knew that the puppet regime held women in utter contempt, and I was all the time longing for a radical change. I could find no solution to the situation because I knew nothing of the revolution. On the night of Mar. 24, when the puppet army withdrew from Quang Ngai provincial capital, they ordered the population to follow them. I and my young brother decided to stay, but at the bottom of my heart, I was still worried what would become of us."

"On the morning of March 25, when the liberation army entered the city, we went out into the streets. I could not believe my eyes. Nothing was burnt, nothing was destroyed. People were moving about as cheerfully as I had ever seen them. The town was gay with flags of the PRG [and] things had changed so quickly and so much that I was stunned."

Doctor Tran Nhu Tam at the Quang Ngai field hospital told this correspondent, "On March 24, when beating a retreat from Quang Ngai, the puppet authorities left behind at my hospital nearly 100 wounded soldiers. I did not know much about the revolution but I was confident that it would never make light of human lives as the Thieu clique did. So, I decided to stay back to look after the wounded."

"Next morning, soon after the town was liberated, I was greatly surprised when I was asked by the liberation forces to continue attending to the wounded soldiers of the Thieu army. This was something I simply couldnot have imagined."

Life in Other Liberated Areas

LPA from North Vietnam [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East 1530 GMT
27 Apr 75 OW

["In the liberated areas of South Vietnam"--LPA headline]

[Text] South Vietnam April 27 LPA--Over 60,000 people penned up in 40 concentration camps in Phu Yen Province in the first 10 days of April 1975, with the help of the revolutionary administration, returned to their native villages.

In the same period, tens of thousands of forced evacuees were also assisted to return home.

From April 15 to 20, 1975 in Tra Vinh Province nearly 600 youths voluntarily joined the liberation armed forces, 637 others joined the guerrilla forces and over 700 people took part in supply carrier teams. The people in the province contributed rice, pigs, poultry, etc, worth 4 million piastres (Saigon currency).

In Thieu My village, Cao Lanh district, Sa Dec Province, on April 16, 1975 alone, 50 youths joined the liberation army and 40 others joined the guerrilla force.

On April 24, 1975 the villagers in Doc Binh Kieu, Thanh My and My An (My An district) sent 60 youths to the liberation armed forces. In the same period, hundreds of youths in Chau Thanh district joined the liberation army, over 200 others took part as guerrillas to defend their liberated villages. Some 180 young men in Thanh Loi, My Hoa, My Quy and My Hung villages (My An district) joined the liberation forces.

According to incomplete statistics, in Darlac Province, from the day of liberation on April 20, over 3,000 boys and girls of ethnic minorities enlisted in the liberation forces and 2,800 others joined the guerrillas.

In Buon Me Thout provincial capital, hundreds of young ethnic people voluntarily joined the regional liberation armed forces.

About 500 Ede and Gial Rai youths in Phu Nhon and Phu Tuc districts on April 15, 1975 left their home to join the liberation forces.

On April 23, 1975, all railway workers in Danang city held a ceremony to launch a week of emulation drive to "restore the Danang-Hue line" from April 24 to 30, 1975 to greet the international labor day (May 1st).