

WAR
FILE SUBJ.
DATE SUB-CAT.
5175

EDITORIAL: THE GLORIOUS VICTORY OF THE 30-YEAR WAR OF LIBERATION

Hanoi HOC TAP in Vietnamese No 233, May 75 pp 5-14

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh campaign won total victory!

The general offensive and uprising by our army and people in the spring of 1975 won total victory!

The final battle of the 20-year war of resistance against the United States for national salvation and the 30-year war of liberation under the leadership of our party ended in total victory!

This victory is an extremely great one.

The compatriots and soldiers throughout our country are both happy and proud. Our brothers and friends throughout the world are joyful and excited.

Winning this extremely great victory at a time when the people of our entire country are commemorating the 85th anniversary of the birth of the revered Uncle Ho causes us to think even more about the boundless service performed by him. President Ho devoted his life to the independence and freedom of the fatherland, the revolutionary cause of our people and the people of the world. During his lifetime, he personally closely followed each stage of development of the revolution in South Vietnam and constantly thought of the compatriots and soldiers in South Vietnam with a heart filled with boundless love. He set forth the correct revolutionary line for our entire people to follow and, at the same time, established and nurtured the basic factors insuring the Vietnamese revolution of increasingly large victories. For this year's commemoration of the anniversary of his birth, our entire party, all our people, and our entire army have enthusiastically and happily carried out one of the most important requests in his sacred will: they have totally defeated the U.S. pirate aggressors and their lackeys, liberated South Vietnam, and defended North Vietnam and are advancing to the reunification of the fatherland.

During this year's spring season, our army and people recorded a brilliant feat of arms by winning the greatest victory in our nation's history of resistance against foreign aggression. In less than 2 months, they carried out a victorious general offensive and uprising on an unprecedented scale. We launched three large, annihilating attacks one after the other. The opening battle in Tay Nguyen destroyed the strategic defensive position of the enemy. The following battle in Hue-Da Nang caused the puppet army to suffer a collapse from which it could not recover. The historic battle of Saigon concluded the fate of the more than 1 million man counter-revolutionary army and abolished the traitorous, tyrannical government of the pro-U.S. compradore capitalists and landowners. Through this general offensive and uprising, our army and people fully implemented Uncle Ho's teaching: drive off the Americans, bring about the collapse of the puppets, liberate South Vietnam, and win total independence for the fatherland.

It is the great, total, and thorough victory of the 30-year war of liberation, a victory of historic significance for our nation. The victory of the war of resistance against the United States for national salvation is the continuation and development of the great victory of the August Revolution and the war of resistance against the

THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT HO

Hanoi HOC TAP in Vietnamese No 233, May 75 pp 1-2

[Text] Each day our country is not united, all of our compatriots must determinedly struggle to unite North and South Vietnam and build a Vietnam of peace, unity, independence, democracy, prosperity, and power.

(April 1956)

The country of Vietnam is a united country, the North and the South are one country, no reactionary force can divide them. Our country of Vietnam must definitely be united.

(September 1957)

The country of Vietnam is a united bloc which cannot be divided. For countless centuries, the people of Vietnam have worked to build their fatherland from the North to the South, they share the same history, share the same tongue, share the same economy, and fought together to drive off the colonialists. The people of Vietnam are determined to struggle to unite their country.

(February 1958)

The people of Vietnam are one, the country of Vietnam is one, our people will surely overcome every difficulty and successfully unite the country, unite the South and the North in one house.

(September 1960)

The country of Vietnam is one.
The people of Vietnam are one.
Even if the rivers run dry and the mountains crumble, the people of the South and the North are children of the same family.

(January 1963)

Our fatherland will surely be united. The compatriots of the South and the North will surely be joined together in one house.

(Testament--1969)

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French; it is the complete victory of our people in the decisive struggle to resolve the problem of "who defeats whom" which existed between national independence and neo-colonialism in our country. For the first time in more than 1 century, our country has rid itself of country-robbers. For the first time, the people of our entire country have won national independence and the right of ownership. Through this spring's victory, our people and our people's armed forces have become much stronger. We are better able to make our fatherland more beautiful and grand; better able to more staunchly defend our fatherland. Through this victory, a new page has been turned in the history of the nation of Vietnam.

The total victory of the 30-year war of national liberation is a victory of an epochal nature, a very important contribution of the Vietnamese revolution to the world revolution. This general offensive and uprising by our army and people abolished the pro-U.S. government and destroyed the mercenary army of the U.S. imperialists, thereby completely ending U.S. military involvement in our country. It is a fatal blow to U.S. neo-colonialism, one which destroys one of their important defense lines and bankrupts the global strategy of the ringleaders of imperialism. The Vietnamese people have buried forever the myth about the invincible power of the United States. The victory of our people has broadly and deeply inspired the progressive people of the world, helped increase the strength of the three revolutionary currents, and changed the balance of power in the world in a manner favorable to the revolution. It has created additional conditions for the world revolution to continue to develop and launch increasingly strong attacks against the strongholds of the imperialists and colonialists. It has directly contributed to accelerating the process of the inevitable death of imperialism on a worldwide scale.

The complete and thorough victory of the past 30 years has put our nation in the ranks of the vanguard nations in the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism.

The victory of this spring's general offensive and uprising as well as the victory of our nation's 30-year war of liberation are the inevitable results of the factors which created the remarkable power of the Vietnamese in the new age.

The total and thorough victory of the 30-year war of national liberation is primarily the victory of the clear-sighted leadership of our party, the vanguard unit of the Vietnamese working class, a determined unit of the international communist and worker movement.

Our party symbolizes the indomitable, unyielding will of the heroic people of Vietnam and the thoroughly revolutionary spirit of the Vietnamese working class. Deeply imbued with the theory of Marxism-Leninism, our party has creatively applied this theory to the actual circumstances of our country in order to set forth the correct line for advancing our country's revolution from victory to victory.

Through its firm and thorough revolutionary stand and its scientific and creative revolutionary methods and displaying the spirit of independence and autonomy, our party set forth a very correct revolutionary line, pointed out the strategic goals of the revolution and the political goals of the war, and set forth the strategy and tactics for achieving these goals. Independence, democracy, and socialism are the noble goals of the age. They are also the banner assembling the greatest forces of the revolution and the revolutionary war in our country.

President Ho told our people the truth of the age: "There is nothing more precious than independence and freedom." He appealed to the people of our entire country: "We would rather suffer the loss of everything than lose our country and be enslaved." The appeals made by him inspired all our people from the North to the South to arise to save the nation, they inspired our compatriots and soldiers to charge forward on the battlefield determined to drive off each aggressor. With a full understanding of the line and goals of the revolution, our army and people defeated the Japanese, drove off the French, swept the U.S. expeditionary army from our country, and, today, through the earthshattering general offensive and uprising, have "brought about the collapse of the puppets," thereby totally liberating the beloved fatherland from the chains of neo-colonialism.

The total and thorough victory of the 30-year war of national liberation is the victory of unity of all the people in the broad united national front based on the strong alliance of workers and farmers and led by the working class.

Unity is strength. The unity of all our people was a very important prerequisite to mobilizing all the people to fight the enemy and creating a force capable of defeating the enemy no matter how large it might be and regardless of how modern its equipment might be.

Inheriting the nation's tradition of unity against foreign aggression and imbued with President Ho's teaching of "unity, unity, broad unity--success, success, sweeping success," our party mobilized the masses patiently and thoroughly and carried out determined, skillful front activities. The party employed suitable forms of organization and absorbed into the revolutionary corps people from all strata, all age groups, all tribes, and all religions, people within the country and overseas Vietnamese for the purpose of saving and maintaining the country.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam had a major impact in the war of resistance against the United States for national salvation. The fronts made an important contribution to implementing the party's policy of uniting everyone who could be united and winning over everyone who could be won over; they highly divided the enemy and smashed their divisive plan; and they directed a spearhead of the revolutionary struggle at the main enemy, the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. We followed a policy of clemency and broadmindedness as regards people who mistakenly chose the wrong course or became lost and wanted to join with the fatherland and the people and we implemented a policy of national conciliation and concord to encourage everyone to unite together in the fight against the aggressor, win and maintain the independence and freedom of the fatherland, and make our country increasingly prosperous and strong.

This spring's general offensive and uprising was a symbol of the bloc of unity of all the people from South to North Vietnam, from the countryside to the cities, from the lowlands to the jungle mountains, a bloc comprised of each revolutionary class and each stratum of people under the centralized, united leadership of the party. Through the strength of this unity, our army and people smashed each force of the enemy, drove the country-robbers and traitors from the country, and totally liberated the beloved fatherland.

The total and thorough victory of the 30-year war of national liberation is the victory of the building of a powerful people's armed forces capable of defeating the aggressor army of the country-robbers.

The people's armed forces were the effective tool of force used by the revolution to smash the counter-revolutionary force of the enemy, they were the key force in the fight of all the people against the enemy. The people's armed forces, comprised of the three troop categories (main force troops, local troops, and the guerrilla militia or self-defense militia), were the primary force used to conduct military attacks, they were a particularly important offensive spearhead, and they played a decisive role in the revolutionary war.

Our party successfully built a powerful and invincible people's armed forces. Our people's armed forces possess excellent revolutionary qualities, an absolutely brave fighting spirit, strict, self-imposed discipline, a strong organization, increasingly modern equipment, and a firm grasp of advanced military science and military art. The constant growth of the people's armed forces in our country has been marked by brilliant feats of arms throughout the 30 years dating from the armed struggle against the Japanese and the war of resistance against the French to the recent war of resistance against the United States for national salvation. We defeated all the strategic plans and modern war technology of the imperialist aggressors and their lackeys.

In this spring's general offensive and uprising, our people's armed forces underwent extraordinary growth. The leadership and command of the various echelons were both very determined and bold. Our troops were extremely brave and resourceful and acted in a very quick and timely manner. The well-trained main force corps with their skill coordination of the various branches in combat and the modern technical branches and services with their rather high level of tactics and technology recorded outstanding feats of arms. This is one of the direct causes of the brilliant victory of the general offensive and uprising, the highpoint of which was the Ho Chi Minh campaign, which destroyed and routed the entire puppet army organized, equipped, trained, and commanded by the United States and bankrupted the "Vietnamization of the war" policy of the U.S. imperialists.

The total and thorough victory of the 30-year war of national liberation is a victory of the thoroughly revolutionary and deeply scientific people's war.

It was a war waged by all the people, a total and long-range war. Each person was a soldier. Each village, hamlet, and street was a fortress. The entire country was a battlefield determined to fight and defeat the aggressors. The entire country, all the people fought the enemy with the armed forces playing the key role. The enemy was attacked on all fronts: the military, political, and diplomatic fronts. It was a people's war waged under the strategic guideline of fighting a long range war and gradually winning victory. While fighting a long-range war, we created and took advantage of opportunities to win gradual victory and, when conditions were ripe, we won victory as quickly as possible. On the basis of fighting a long range war, our army and people always made extraordinary efforts, constantly attacked and destroyed the enemy, won victory after victory, and gradually changed the balance of power between us and the enemy in a manner favorable to us. By determinedly fighting and patiently developing the real force of the revolution in every respect, primarily by building up the people's armed forces, we were able to develop the conditions needed to create and take advantage of opportunities to move the war ahead by leaps and bounds and achieve total victory.

It was a people's war in which the constant thinking was the strategy of being on the offensive. We had to attack the enemy in all three strategic areas: the jungle mountains, the rural lowlands, and the cities. We had to mobilize each force and employ each form of struggle to attack the enemy. The armed struggle was coordinated with the political struggle, military attacks were coordinated with mass uprisings, and the revolutionary war was coordinated with armed rebellion. We had to strongly develop the role played by the three offensive spearheads by coordinating the military struggle, political struggle, and military proselyting to overwhelm the enemy.

It was a revolutionary war of the masses which developed from a guerrilla war to a conventional war and closely coordinated guerrilla warfare with conventional warfare. Both guerrilla warfare and conventional warfare occupied very important strategic positions. Guerrilla warfare was the most suitable mode of warfare for engaging the entire country in the fight against the enemy; it was also the mode employed by the masses in uprisings to win the right of ownership in each locality. The conventional war, which was primarily waged by main force troops, created powerful fists which were very effective strategically in smashing the will of aggression of the enemy and winning total victory in the war. On the basis of the widely developed guerrilla war, we had to accelerate the conventional war and, at the same time, constantly increase its scale by fighting more and more annihilating battles. Only by annihilating many enemy troops was it possible to smash their will of aggression and recover all territory.

In keeping with the law of winning victory with each battle and becoming stronger with each battle, the people's war in our country had to develop from small to large scale and from a partial to a total war, the highpoint of which was this spring's general offensive and uprising. Occurring at the right strategic opportunity and developing the people's war to a new level, this general offensive and uprising attacked the enemy with the combined power of the conventional, modern main force corps and the strongly, widely developed guerrilla war movement on the entire battlefield of South Vietnam in coordination with mass insurrections and attacked the enemy with the great power of the three offensive spearheads, the military, political, and military proselyting spearheads, from a strong battle position and by employing the art of a rapid, skillful offensive. It was the inevitable victorious development of our people's 30-year war of national liberation and the brilliant pinnacle of our art of waging war.

The total and thorough victory of the 30-year war of national liberation is the victory of building the strong rear area of the people's war.

The rear area was the source of manpower and materiel for the war, the source of political and spiritual encouragement and inspiration for the frontlines. Without a strong rear area, the frontlines cannot win victory. This is a law in every war. Our party adhered to and creatively applied this law to the specific conditions of our country and the changing situation of the revolutionary war in our country.

Under the leadership of the party, the rear area of the Vietnamese people's war developed from building the political base to building the rear base and rear area of the war on an increasingly large scale in order to fully develop the strength of the rear area's support of the frontlines in order to defeat the enemy.

In the war of resistance against the United States for national salvation, our party advocated coordinating the building of a large rear area in North Vietnam with the building of local rear areas in South Vietnam. This coordination insured that we could employ the strength of the entire nation, of the socialist system in North Vietnam, and of the people's democratic system established in the liberated zone of South Vietnam and employ the strength of all the revolutionary successes won by our people over the past several decades of fighting in order to totally defeat the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

North Vietnam had to advance toward socialism and strongly display the superior nature of the socialist system by making itself strong politically and economically as well as in terms of its national defense system. Even during the war, North Vietnam fought and developed itself and always strengthened its potentials in every area in order to be able to provide the manpower and materiel needed to win victory in the war. Socialist North Vietnam very gloriously completed its task as the great rear area of the great frontlines in South Vietnam throughout the course of the war of resistance against the United States for national salvation; in particular, it made a very important contribution together with the compatriots and soldiers of South Vietnam to advancing the general offensive and uprising of the spring of 1975 to total victory.

The total and thorough victory of the 30-year war of national liberation is the victory of the correct international line of our party, the fighting unity amongst the three nations of Indochina against the common enemy, and the effective help of the fraternal socialist countries and the progressive people of the world.

Our country's revolution is an integral part of the world revolutionary movement. Each victory of the revolution and the revolutionary war in our country has been closely linked to the process of development of the world revolutionary movement, it has been directly influenced by this movement, and it has helped stimulate the development of this movement.

Our party coordinated the spirit of genuine patriotism with the proletarian international spirit, coordinated the interests of the nation with the interests of the world revolution. Our party taught our people to devote their efforts to gloriously completing their national and international tasks and contributing to the joint struggle of the people of the world against imperialism led by the U.S. imperialists. Our people, together with the people of fraternal Laos and Cambodia, built the strong bloc of militant unity of the three nations of Indochina against imperialist aggression over the past several decades. In the war of resistance against the United States for national salvation, this bloc of militant unity created additional conditions for each nation to gloriously complete its task of liberation.

Our party has always advocated being self-reliant while making every effort to acquire international sympathy, support, and assistance and coordinating the strength of the nation with the strength of the age in order to create a large force for defeating each aggressor.

Our people consider the help provided by the Soviet Union, China, and the other fraternal socialist countries as well as the help provided by the national liberation, peace, and democratic movement in the world as indispensable prerequisites to winning victory in the war of resistance against the United States for national salvation.

It is for this reason that the fraternal socialist countries and the peace and justice loving people of the world are happily celebrating the victory won by our people in this spring's general offensive and uprising which secured independence and freedom for our entire fatherland and created the conditions for our people to move forward to build a Vietnam of peace, unity, independence, democracy, prosperity, and power.

The above mentioned causes of the victory of the 30-year war of national liberation are also extremely valuable lessons and experiences which our army and people must constantly keep in mind in the development and defense of the fatherland now and in the future.

The long war of national liberation of our people has ended in glorious victory. Our people's national democratic revolution has reached a beautiful end throughout the country.

Our fatherland has rid itself of the aggressor army. From now on, the Vietnamese people will truly live in peace, independence, and freedom!

Our nation is entering a period of development of unprecedented brilliance. We are faced with several very glorious tasks. Our army and people must make every effort to consolidate and develop upon the victory which has been won and continue to move our country's revolution forward. This is the highest expression of the thinking of the constant revolution, of the revolutionary-offensive spirit of our people in the new period. In the advance of the revolution our people will necessarily encounter more than a few difficulties. However, we have a full and strong basis and extremely favorable conditions for accelerating the development of the country.

The compatriots of North Vietnam must make every effort to emulate in labor, production, and the practice of frugality in socialist construction and they must rapidly complete the reconstruction of the economy and the healing of the wounds of the war in order to begin implementing the 2nd 5-year plan for economic and cultural development. They must, on the basis of carrying out socialist industrialization, accelerate the construction of the material and technical base of socialism, strengthen and consolidate the national defense system, and contribute to the reconstruction and development of the economy in South Vietnam.

Socialism in North Vietnam is the main factor in building a Vietnam of peace, unity, independence, democracy, prosperity, and power.

The compatriots in South Vietnam must strengthen their unity, heighten their vigilance, actively participate in the development of revolutionary governments of the people from the central to the local levels; make every effort to support the National Liberation Front and the revolutionary government in their efforts to complete the dismantling of the war machine and machinery of suppression of the lackey puppet government of the United States; maintain order and security, suppress counter-revolutionary activities, and punish and reform adventurers and hoodlums; implement the rights of freedom and democracy of the people.

An important and rather complicated problem in South Vietnam at this time is that of overcoming the aftereffects of the war and eliminating every vestige of the neo-colonialism of the U.S. imperialists in each field of social life. To actively contribute to this work, it is necessary to build a national and democratic economy, political structure, and culture and mobilize the people to make every effort to participate in patriotic emulation and actively participate in labor in order to rapidly restore the economy, heal the wounds of the war, and stabilize the lives of workers, laboring people, and all other strata.

These are practical jobs which must be done in order to advance to the reunification of North and South Vietnam.

Over the past several years, the people's armed forces of our entire country excellently completed their combat missions and defeated the enemy; today, they must be worthy of being the key force in the defense of peace and the fatherland. We must make every effort to continue to develop strong and widespread mass armed forces and continue to build the conventional and modern people's army. We must continue to constantly build up our army so that it is a truly revolutionary army, truly an army of the people and, at the same time, an increasingly conventional and modern army.

Regardless of the situation, our people's armed forces and our army must be the reliable and effective tool of force of the revolution and the people, one which becomes increasingly powerful and has the ability to firmly protect each fruit of the revolution, firmly protect the territory, air space, and coastal waters of the fatherland, and firmly protect the peaceful labor of our people. Our army must constantly heighten its will and ability to fight, continue to develop and improve Vietnamese militant science and art, and victoriously complete each immediate and long range mission assigned by the party and the people. It must constantly heighten its vigilance, maintain its combat readiness, and promptly defeat each sinister plan of the enemy; at the same time, it must make every effort to propagandize and mobilize the people and help the people in the newly liberated areas to rapidly stabilize their lives, develop their production, maintain social order and security, and tighten the unity between the army and the people.

Our country has known hours of glory filled with victory but its joy has never been as complete as it is today.

Our people have experienced many periods of building the country but never before have there been such favorable opportunities for building a powerful, strong country.

May all our people and our entire army move forward to successfully complete their tasks in the new period and show themselves to be worthy of the hardships and sacrifices of the nation and worthy of the fine, genuine words of praise of our brothers and friends on the five continents. May each one of us devote his full spirit, energy, intelligence, and talent to contributing as much and as best possible to our fatherland and our people today and to future generations.

On this happy day of victory, our entire party, all our people, and our entire army respectfully remember the endlessly revered Uncle Ho and promise to fully implement his final teaching: "Build a Vietnam of peace, unity, independence, democracy, prosperity, and power and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution."

HOC TAP Journal
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