

NHAN DAN REVIEWS VICTORIES OF LIBERATION WAR

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[7 May NHAN DAN editorial: "Dien Bien Phu, Ho Chi Minh"]

[Text] History has reserved for our nation glorious and momentous days in May. It is in May that we celebrate esteemed Uncle Ho's birthday and in May our nation won the Dien Bien Phu victory. It was also in May, 21 years later, that our nation raised the banner of complete victory in the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign, the peak of the general offensive and general uprisings to completely liberate the south.

The Dien Bien Phu campaign ended the old colonialist domination and led to the collapse of the French imperialist colonial system. The Ho Chi Minh campaign was to the U.S. imperialists a Dien Bien Phu which stamped out U.S. neocolonialism in the southern part of our country and led to the bankruptcy of their reactionary global strategy.

In the thunderous advance of our troops, the uprisings of our compatriots and the marching of our entire country to the battlefronts this year, there was still the strength, determination and victorious impetus of the Dien Bien Phu campaign. The jubilant cheering resounding across our country still echoes the stirring fanfare which announced the Dien Bien Phu victory.

The Dien Bien Phu thunder petrified the U.S. imperialists with fear of the high tide of revolution of our people and the world's people. Arrogant and aggressive, the U.S. imperialists, reacting quickly as an international gendarme, promptly jumped in to replace the French imperialists and wage an unprecedentedly war of aggression against our country. In the name of socialism and national independence, in the name of justice and human dignity, our people took up the challenge delivered by the U.S. imperialists. The Dien Bien Phu victory gave us the conditions, experience and bravery to accept that historic confrontation and conduct for 21 years an extremely difficult and exacting but also extremely glorious fight for national salvation against the Americans.

Four U.S. presidents spent hundreds of billions of dollars: Used the maximum strength of their army, navy and air force plus modern military hardware; and drew into the fray several lackey countries and mercenary troops in their efforts to crush our people's resistance. Confronting this colossal aggressive war machine and these hysterically bellicose forces was a nation with the "determined-to-fight-and-win" with the Dien Bien Phu tradition alive in its heart and its blood, inspired by the revolutionary ideology of the era.

Holding aloft the banner of Dien Bien Phu, our armed forces and people progressed from the 1950 simultaneous uprisings to the 1964 offensives which cause the U.S. special war to go bankrupt, the 1968 spring offensive and uprisings, the 1971 Route 9-southern Laos campaign, the 1972 general offensive, the December 1972 "Dien Bien Phu air battle", to the At Mao spring campaign--the greatest campaign in the history of our nation, the peak of which was the campaign bearing the name of great Uncle Ho. This campaign led us into Saigon to completely liberate the southern part of our country, thus gloriously concluding our people's struggle for independence, freedom and socialism.

The Ho Chi Minh campaign was the continuation as well as the development to a very high level of the Dien Bien Phu campaign. The generation of people who engineered the Dien Bien Phu victory in the past participated in the Ho Chi Minh campaign this year with a generation of young people who were born amidst the gunfire at Dien Bien Phu.

The strength of the Vietnamese revolution and of our army and people in the Ho Chi Minh campaign was much greater than that in the Dien Bien Phu campaign in scale, magnitude, intensity, potential and the art of conducting the war.

The strength of our fatherland, which was meticulously accumulated day after day and which resided in hundreds of thousands of invincible troops who, at the momentous hour of history, were unleashed on the Ho Chi Minh trail atop the Truong Son Mountain range and in the Ho Chi Minh campaign, petrified the enemy.

In just 55 days, our troops crushed 1 million puppet troops, smashed not just one cluster of strongpoints but dozens of military complexes and staged lightning offensives and uprisings, catching the enemy completely off guard.

Our generation was greatly elated at witnessing the surrender of the enemy command at Dien Bien Phu, the departure of the last U.S. aggressor soldiers from our country, the flight to sea by the U.S. ambassador in a helicopter which took off from a Saigon rooftop, and the unconditional surrender of the puppet administration leaders to the revolution at Saigon's presidential palace.

In the ripples of the fluttering flags of the infantry, engineering, artillery, armored, navy, air defense and air force, signal and liaison, special troop, chemical troop and militia units which won complete victory in the Ho Chi Minh campaign still linger the valiant spirit of Dien Bien Phu and the pride which Uncle Ho expressed in his testament: "Our country will have the great honor of being a small country which vanquishes two big imperialists, France and the United States, and which makes worthy contributions to the national liberation movement."

Today, full of enthusiasm and confidence, we turn toward our party and esteemed President Ho, which led our armed forces and people in winning resounding victories in the new era. The sky-shaking, earth-shattering strength of the Vietnamese revolution in the past as well as at present originated from millions of people who love the country and socialism and from the solidarity with all the progressive and revolutionary forces the world over. The victory of our people is the victory of socialism and of the forces struggling for national independence.

The Ho Chi Minh campaign has rocked the world. Thousands of millions of enthusiastic people all over the globe have hailed the campaign and will remember it as one of the most glorious chapters in the history of the national liberation movement. For their part, the U.S. imperialists are still dazed and astounded. It took the Ho Chi Minh campaign to make them realize they can no longer play the role of international gendarme. It has damned on them that their country's wealth is not inexhaustible. The U.S. global strategy has been upset.

The world's revolutionary and peace forces, stimulated by Vietnam's victory, are experiencing unprecedented growth. Many people have talked about the dawning of a new era with our nation's complete victory, which has had a strong impact on the situation in Southeast Asia and the world to the advantage of the revolution and progress of mankind.

From the Dien Bien Phu campaign to this year's spring campaign, with the Ho Chi Minh campaign as its peak, our nation has traveled a long way, fraught with difficulties and hardships but also crowned with glory, has won brilliant victory and meteorically grown in one day as though it were decades.