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INCORRECT PREDICTIONS BY U.S. OFFICIALS RECALLED

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1330 GMT 11 Aug 72 S

[Commentary by Nguoi Ban Tia ("The Sniper"): "Sad Effects for Kissinger and Laird"]

[Text] The big shots in the White House and the Pentagon have often tried to appear as accurate prophets. These gentlemen have often predicted the effects of actions they had taken to cope with the deteriorating situation on the Indochina battlefield. In the spring of 1971, faced with the losing situation of the U.S.-puppets, they forced the puppet troops to launch a large-scale operation in southern Laos, with strong U.S. air and ground support. At that time these gentlemen were happy to predict that the communists would be quickly strangled; but in 43 days not only were the communists not strangled, but on the contrary they hit both the U.S. and puppet troops so hard that the puppet troops had to cling to the skids of helicopters to flee. This was a hard blow to Nixon's Vietnamization plan.

Despite this, the leaders in the White House and Pentagon still arrogantly stated that this military operation had brought the expected results and that everyone would see its effects by 1972, when the Vietnamese communists would not have sufficient supplies to launch a large-scale offensive.

Our advice is inspired by frankness. But I must admit that we have no illusions as to their attitude because right after Minister Binh's advice, Mr Lam immediately replied by justifying Thieu's new press law. He said that this law seeks to defend the democratic rights and freedom of the South Vietnamese people. Mr Vy also gave a piece of advice to the Saigon delegate. I think that Mr Le will tell you about this later.

LIBERATION RADIO REPORTS MCGOVERN COMMENT ON DEFENSE BUDGET

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in English to American Servicemen in South Vietnam
1430 GMT 12 Aug 72 B

[Text] Big military expenditures, especially the Vietnam war, has been the root cause of inflation that has (?lasted) for 6 years under the democrats as well as under the republicans, said Senator George McGovern recently. The Democratic presidential candidate urged the administration not to allow the Pentagon's request to eat up resources that could be used to meet the needs in the states.

According to McGovern, the military budget in the past year far exceeded what the U.S. needed for its security.

MCGOVERN, HUMPHREY, MANSFIELD HIT NIXON'S WAR POLICIES

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in English to South Vietnam 1030 GMT 11 Aug 72 B

[Text] At the recent meeting of the National Democratic Committee, Senator McGovern, Democratic presidential nominee, and two other senators, Mansfield and Humphrey, once again vigorously denounced Nixon's Vietnam policies and his war crimes in Vietnam.

Senator McGovern [words indistinct] a dictatorial regime in Saigon. Senators Humphrey and Mansfield called for unity among the democrats (?to oust) Nixon.

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Despite this, the leaders in the White House and Pentagon still arrogantly stated that this military operation had brought the expected results and that everyone would see its effects by 1972, when the Vietnamese communists would not have sufficient supplies to launch a large-scale offensive.

Of course realities have proved the contrary. Indeed since 30 March the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have launched stormy attacks from Quang Tri to the Nam Bo delta with a strength and efficiency that have exceeded all the previous attacks. These new attacks have dealt deadly blows to the U.S. Vietnamization plan and they are driving it to the abyss of failure.

To cope with this situation, President Nixon was forced to double the number of U.S. aircraft and warships and to order the resumption of the bombings of North Vietnam. This was a good opportunity for Kissinger to demonstrate his skill at prognostication. He told the people that on 1 July, that is, 1 month after Nixon made the decision, everyone would be able to see the general effects of President Nixon's decision to resume the bombing. No sooner had he made this prediction than Kissinger ordered his special action group to carefully watch the situation. But 3 months have elapsed since Nixon ordered the resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam, and every sign shows that North Vietnam continues to raise high its determination to fight and win, to stalwartly overcome all challenges to defeat Nixon's war of destruction and to unceasingly assist the great frontline.

As for the South Vietnam PLAF's attacks, these are as vigorous as in the first days of the offensives, as Western correspondents have pointed out. This proves that the communist supplies continue to flow in. As for the puppet troops, although they have not yet completely collapsed, they have, however, suffered serious losses. Half of their regular units have been badly mauled. As for their territorial forces, the civil guards and militiamen, they have lost one-third of their strength.

The bitter symbolic defeats of the U.S.-puppets were in Quang Tri. Here their fortified outer defense line and a strong defense complex, composed of six infantry regiments and four armored regiments, were destroyed within 2 months. Then came the desperate counterattacks by the two seasoned puppet divisions with strong U.S. air and naval support. In Quang Tri city, in an area of less than 3 square kms, in only 4 weeks, U.S. aircraft dropped 35,000 tons of bombs, while U.S. warships fired 300,000 shells, a bombardment unprecedented in the history of war.

Despite this, the puppet airborne continued to be so badly battered that they had to withdraw for supplies while the puppet marines rushed in to replace the airborne are suffering such heavy casualties that their morale has dropped seriously. More than 12,000 paratroopers were wiped out, 111 U.S. aircraft were downed and scores of U.S. warships were damaged. According to a Western correspondent, Quang Tri is now like a (?knife) at the neck of the puppet troops. The officials in the White House and Pentagon have been warned that if they do not withdraw these puppet troops from the area, the outcome will be even more tragic.

In sum the situation is developing to the great discouragement of Kissinger and the big shots in the White House and the Pentagon. To soothe public opinion and to create a vain hope for the U.S.-puppet troops, U.S. Defense Secretary Laird again predicted that the effects of the U.S. bombing will be visible by late autumn, and that meanwhile the South Vietnamese troops will check the communist offensives on the ground, according to UPI on 6 August.

Could it be that because of these severe blows Laird has lost his mind and spoken so wantonly? Or is he waiting for the general effects of the more bitter defeats sustained by the U.S.-puppet troops on the battlefields?