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OUR PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY POWER

THE *Daily Telegraph* reported on November 16, 1968: The U.S. Mission in Saigon med that Liberation Committees had been set up or elected in all "Viet Cong" — controlled or contended areas and that so far they had been established in 17 provinces, 5 townships, 33 districts and 1,270 villages.

This is not an accurate statistical figure. Inferior though to the actual one, it suffices to show the birth and constant and momentous growth of the people's revolutionary power in South Viet Nam from the village to the provincial levels. Since the generalized offensives and simultaneous uprisings in early spring 1968 over 11 million of our compatriots in the old and new liberated zones have been engaged in establishing the people's revolutionary power.

While fighting, serving the front and concurrently carrying on production, they have enthusiastically taken part in discussions over the building of the new power. One could witness entire groups sitting in undergrounds to shelter themselves from enemy artillery shelling gon on exchanging their views over democratic rights, the success won by the people in setting up the revolutionary power and the duty of each citizen towards it.

Election day has been a festival for the population in all localities with flags flying and banderoles hanging all over the roads and houses and drum beating and songs resounding in every nook and corner. Dressed in their best, clusters of people gleefully moved to the polling booths to accomplish their duty as citizens.

The organizing committees had mobile ballot-boxes brought to the beds of sick electors for them to cast in their votes.

In some B 52—struck areas 100 per cent of the population discharged their responsibilities. In others, thanks to the determination of the local guerillas and their countrymen to drive out the raiders, and to urgent organizational work, the elections took place in a day at the previously fixed date; from 80 to 100 per cent went to the polls.

So far thousands of villages have elected the organs of revolutionary power. In many places the representatives met

in full sessions to elect People's Liberation Committees at district level such as in Ca Mau, Rach Gia, Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Kontum, Gia Lai, Quang Ngai and My Tho provinces.

Now the provinces and provincial capitals of Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Hue, Gia Lai, Quang Nam, Da Nang, Ca Mau, My Tho, Quang Da, Kien Phong, etc., have their Liberation Committees.

Every where the people held solemn gatherings to welcome their own committees and mark their attachment to the revolutionary power.

The People's Revolutionary Committees at all levels are composed of men and women with abilities and moral and other qualifications to wield power in the name of the electorate. The fact heroes and outstanding fighters of 18 years upwards (though not meeting the 21-year requirement) enjoy the right to stand election, gives a striking expression to the broadly democratic character of the people's revolutionary power. P.R.C. members include tried and tested cadres who have endured untold hardships and sufferings all through the struggle of the masses, and contributed to push ahead activities in all fields in their areas. They are dedicated to serving the people and earn the confidence and affection of all social strata.

The newly set up power at all levels has immediately started to impel the building of a new life, take measures intended for its own defence and implement the concrete policies mentioned in the South Viet Nam NFL's Political Program aimed at improving the people's living conditions and contributing human

difficulties to till or increase the cultivable lands.

The revolutionary power also pays utmost attention to the people's moral life. The new culture which has set in facilitates the formation of a new man and the promotion of revolutionary heroism in the struggle against the corrupt, reactionary culture of the American imperialists and the puppets.

Together with other concrete achievements registered in the implementation of the NFL policies, the establishment of the revolutionary power constitutes a tremendous success of the South Vietnamese people over many years of fierce struggle under the clear-sighted leadership of the Front.

Clearly, the revolutionary power is the power of the people, by the people and for the people. It has been built at the cost of their blood and is in a steady process of consolidation and development. This spells out the authority of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and proves that the Front is the true representative and material resources to the service of the front in response to the demands of the new period and in advance towards the seizure of all power for the people.

Rejoicing at the successes they have registered, the population in the liberated zones further close their ranks and, sticking to their lands, strongly boost production as an answer to the appeal of the NFL Central Committee for a "victory over the U.S. aggressors" crop with a view to raising the people's living standard and supplying the armed forces with substantial food supplies.

The correct execution of the land policy by the NFL has created a strong impact on the development of agricultural production. In many areas, including those close to enemy bases, the population have tided over all kinds of tentative of the South Vietnamese people, competent to settle all problems concerning South Viet Nam.

It is the resolve of the South Vietnamese people to step up their generalized offensives and simultaneous uprisings in order to smash to smithereens the puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, a band of traitors, creatures of the U.S., who have sold their fatherland down the river for the American aggressors to materialize their neo-colonialist policy. It is the resolve of the South Vietnamese people to build their revolutionary power into a steady one, to make it a solid support for the struggle for the liberation of the South, the defence of the North and the advance towards peaceful national reunification.

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