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ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEDICAL BRANCH REVIEWED

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[Text] Since the NLF's founding, coupled with the leadership over the masses' anti-U.S. national salvation armed and political struggle movement to regain power for the people, the protection of the health of fighters, cadres, and people, and the improvement of the people's strength constitute the Front's task in the medical branch.

Over the past years, despite all difficulties created by the increasingly fierce war, the medical branch, under the Front's clear-sighted leadership, has constantly developed. The present medical network established in villages and hamlets to directly protect the people's health is considered a very great achievement. In parallel with the development of medical organizations in the fields of medical treatment and prophylaxis, the pharmaceutical task has been stepped up to supply drugs in time.

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

Particularly since 1963, the pharmaceutical task and organization have developed with the birth of a number of drug production installations in the liberation areas. At present, all provinces in South Vietnam possess their own pharmaceutical installations with medicine production organizations and large medical supply storages, such as the provincial or district medical supply factories. There are all types of pharmaceutical products, including medicine for injection--namely, filatov drugs, quinine, vitamins, V.T. tonic, drugs prepared in the form of pills, capsules, powders, and liquids, dermatological medicine, and so forth. Many localities have set up pilot pharmaceutical organizations and drugstores with a view to serving the people and creating a sense of self-reliance and self-sufficiency in the consumption of medicine [words indistinct]. Medical supply installations have also been built in legal areas or in places devastated by enemy bombs and shells and mopped up by the enemy on several occasions.

Under the hail of enemy bombs and shells, the medical supply organizations in Cu Chi have daily overcome many difficulties to produce salted and sweet serums, vitamin injections, and tonics. Living and operating underground and producing at night under the hail of enemy shells, the Cu Chi pharmaceutical laboratory is a typical medical supply organization on a bloody battlefield. In many other localities such as Ben Tre, Ca Mau, Can Tho, Rach Gia, and Tay Ninh, the district drug preparation organizations or pharmaceutical laboratories have made great contributions to the production of ordinary and original drugs, namely, filatov drug, pills prepared according to basic formulas, tonic tablets, antileucorrhoea pills, and NT-q powder.

In the provinces, medical production has been widened. Some provinces can supply themselves with more than 50 percent of needed medicine, others 100 percent. The production scope and production management methods at the medical supply factories are more ample, with a yearly production of half a million ampoules for injection and 3 million pills. A number of localities have their own glassware factories to produce ampoules and bottles out of glass debris, and small medical implement shops to manufacture ordinary tools such as pincers, pliers, and knives from splinters of enemy shells or bombs to meet the requirements of medicine production and medical treatment.

Throughout South Vietnam [words indistinct], there are two glassware factories, six medical supply shops, two medical implement factories and many small workshop detachments, 30 provincial pharmaceutical laboratories, 20 district pharmaceutical laboratories, and many mobile medical supply teams to serve the battlefield.

Our medicine production connects oriental and occidental medicines with the collection and exploitation of pharmaceutical ingredients of every region. This is a very important task. Enjoying popular experiences in the use of the valuable treasury of Vietnamese medicinal herbs, our pharmacist cadres have studied hard to devise many good formulas for the preparation of drugs with local pharmaceutical ingredients, achieving many good results in medical treatment with antidiarrhea pills, antimalaria capsules, tablets prepared according to basic pharmaceutical formulas, snake-bite pills, antileucorrhoea pills, [words indistinct]. The total output of pharmaceutical products of various types has been raised from 50 to 80 percent.



Despite the fierceness of the war, the lack of means for pharmaceutical research and exploitation, the ravage of forests, and so forth, the pharmaceutical ingredients coming from the jungles and storage areas have been [word indistinct] and widely used by medical supply installations, [words indistinct], deer antlers, and quinquina bark are profitable for building our original pharmaceutical branch and for the economic struggle against the enemy.

To better serve the medicine production task in accordance with connecting Oriental and Occidental medicines, the pharmaceutical branch has stepped up scientific research to satisfy the present requirements. A number of laboratories have been set up to successfully test and study some pharmaceutical products and medicine production techniques having a great value. To settle a number of urgent problems such as [words indistinct], the plaster-producing technique, treatment of wounds, preparation of NT-9 with natural ingredients [words indistinct] use of coconut juice in lieu of [word indistinct]. Moreover, the protracted research on honey, nitrogen, and local antiseptic ingredients has brought some initial results.

Despite the difficult circumstances and lack of means and tools, the pharmaceutical branch has upheld its role of testing medicine so as to constantly insure and improve the quality of drugs and to satisfactorily serve the tasks related to medical treatment and prophylaxis.

Under the front's leadership, the medical organization has developed to serve the people in the increasingly expanded liberated areas. In the past years, much effort has been exerted to train pharmaceutical cadres to meet the increasingly great pharmaceutical requirements.

In addition to a number of centralized schools which have trained hundreds of elementary cadres, the medical supply installations serve as on-the-job training schools for assistant pharmacists and elementary cadres for the pharmaceutical branch. Particularly in 1968, the number of assistant pharmacists in the maquis reached 120. In addition, a number of schools for intermediate pharmaceutical cadres were set up, and the contingent of intermediate cadres in 1968 increased five times over that of 1967.

Moreover, a pilot course for advanced pharmaceutical cadres was organized. In the general development of the southern revolution and in the face of the increasingly great requirements of health protection and service to the people, the pharmaceutical branch made great efforts in the organization of the production, study, and supply of medicine, satisfactorily serving the tasks related to medical treatment and prophylaxis. These initial achievements resulted from the correct implementation of the Front's revolutionary medical line aimed at serving the struggle and production and under the direct guidance of the southern civil health committee.

Under the conditions of an increasingly fierce war and in an enthusiastic atmosphere of great victories of the southern revolution in the tide of general offensive and uprisings, the pharmaceutical branch must make more efforts to overcome all difficulties and to heighten the self-reliant spirit, with a determination to advance and score many more achievements, thus worthily contributing to the general victory of the southern revolution.