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QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 1 JUL ARTICLE ON U.S. MILITARY STRATEGY

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[1 July QUAN DOI NHAN DAN article: "U.S. Forward Strategy and Bridgeheads on the Asian Continent"]

[Text] From the end of World War II to the last days of April 1975, that is, before the complete defeat of the U.S. neocolonialist war in Vietnam, the U.S. military circles often boasted of the strong U.S. strategic position in the Pacific and Asia in the framework of its forward strategy with bridgeheads on the Asian continent. In their view, this strategic position resulted from the successful establishment of a system of interlocking U.S. forward military bases consisting of several lines. Set up on a string of strategic islands and dominating the entire Pacific, the first line comprises several Army-Navy-Air Force complex bases and stretches from a group of islands near the Alaska Peninsula in North America to the Hawaiian archipelago and the islands of Midway, Wake, Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, and the newest U.S. base on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The second line comprises bridgeheads established on the Asian mainland, specifically on vast strategic peninsulas such as South Korea, Indochina, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore, an island attached to the continent. The third line comprises military bases located deep in the Asian continent, stretching from strategically important but barely accessible mountain regions inhabited by ethnic minority groups such as the highlands of South Vietnam and of northern and south Laos, and the mountain regions in northeastern Thailand and northern Burma to several areas of Iran and Iraq in the Middle East. These bases were manned by the U.S. special forces--the Green Berets--once a favorite of the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations.

As the U.S. military circles saw it, for nearly a third of a century this strategic deployment created strong footholds, bridgeheads and springboards for U.S. military forces to take quick on-the-spot actions and absorb subsequent deployment of regional strategic reserves or general forces stationed on U.S. soil. This strategic deployment enabled all the four U.S. armed services--the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines--to assist each other in carrying out combined operations. The U.S. military circles ceaselessly boasted that this ideal strategic deployment permitted U.S. military forces to attack while advancing; defend themselves while withdrawing; and attack from the sea, the air, and mountain areas deep behind the enemy's lines. It also allowed them to carry out four kinds of war--nuclear, general conventional, regional conventional and counterinsurgency--and use various fighting methods, and so forth.

However, the painstaking efforts of the White House and the Pentagon over the past nearly a third of a century to build this strategic position have been turned topsy-turvy by the powerful 55-day offensive and uprising of our armed forces and people in South Vietnam. The United States has been ousted from its bridgehead on the Indochina Peninsula--its most important springboard on the perimeter of the Asian continent. U.S. Military circles have had to acknowledge that the U.S. position in Thailand and on the Malay Peninsula has become precarious, shaky and hardly defensible; that it will be difficult for the Green Berets to remain in Southeast Asia following the loss of their main fields and bases of operation in Indochina; and that the fall of the Indochinese Peninsula bridgehead will inevitably result in the fall of other bridgeheads throughout this and other continents.

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At present, the struggle movement for the removal of U.S. military bases is rising in many places. U.S. military commentator (Jim Newton) has written that the Philippines considers the annulment of the U.S.-Filipino mutual defense treaty and the take-over of U.S. military bases in that country by the Philippines are consistent with the country's national interests. Similar views also prevail in Thailand. The Thais are asking: "Isn't the U.S. role in Asia ended?" Another U.S. journalist, (Warren Nelson) wrote: U.S. observers reported that in the wake of the recent victory of Hanoi, Thailand, Malaysia and several other Southeast Asian countries are revising their foreign policies. Senator Frank Church recently demanded the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from the Asian continent, including South Korea and Thailand.

The U.S. ruling clique, aggressive by nature, is stubbornly opposing this trend. The Ford-Kissinger-Schlesinger clique continues to clamor for war on the Korean Peninsula, brandishing nuclear weapons to intimidate others. Their warlike arguments, however, are only adding fuel to the fire and will only bring them setbacks.