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LENINISM AND DRV MILITARY DEFENSE: May 1976

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

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[First part of Dang Thanh article published in May TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Lenin and the Problem of Defending the Socialist Fatherland"]

[Text] Analyzing the unequal development of capitalism in the imperialist stage while creatively developing Marx and Engels' doctrine concerning proletarian revolution, Lenin presented a famous argument: Socialism cannot simultaneously achieve success in all countries, but it can achieve success at first in a small number of countries or in a single country. The success of the Russian October Revolution and the emergence of the first socialist state in human history has eloquently proven the correctness of Lenin's conclusion.

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Meanwhile, Lenin developed Engels' thought concerning the proletariat's self-defense following its triumph over the bourgeoisie at home and, for the first time, advanced an argument concerning defense of the socialist fatherland and of socialism, which is considered the fatherland. In many articles, he affirmed: If it is essential that socialist revolution achieve success at first in one country or a small number of countries, the defense of the socialist fatherland is also essential because, following the success of any proletarian revolution, it is impossible to avoid a situation in which the bourgeoisie in other countries seek ways to exterminate the victorious proletariat in the socialist country. He pointed out: It is necessary to defend the socialist fatherland. We have become defenders of the country since 25 October 1917. Since this date, we have advocated defending the fatherland and the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic. He reminded Soviet cadres, party members and citizens to take precautions and improve "our national defense capabilities and those of our students just as we would care for our most treasured things."

Lenin's teachings, as well as the realities of the revolutionary struggle in Russia and the world over in the past half a century or more, have affirmed this truth: So long as imperialism still exists in the world, in order to advance proletarian revolution in each country toward complete success, construction of socialism must be coupled with the defense of the socialist fatherland. This is a great concept of Lenin's military thought and one of the basic issues of Marxism-Leninism regarding socialist revolution. This concept evolved from a scientific analysis of the reactionary and bellicose nature of imperialism, deep-rooted economic causes of imperialist aggression, and irreconcilable contradictions between capitalism and socialism. Therefore, defense of the socialist fatherland is an essential, objective requirement. It reflects the fierce class struggle in a country where the proletariat has just seized power and proletarian dictatorship is newly established. At the same time it reflects the fierce class struggle during the entire transition period when capitalism is shifted to socialism all over the world.

Strengthening national defense and defense of the socialist fatherland is aimed not only at firmly maintaining the proletarian administration and protecting the gains of the socialist revolution in a country. It is also aimed at firmly maintaining and consolidating the forces on the battleground of the world revolutionary movement and of socialism and at contributing to liberating the working people in other countries. Therefore, defending the socialist fatherland is both a sacred national duty and a noble international obligation of any country which has successfully conducted a socialist revolution.

In view of the importance and enormous significance of the undertaking to protect the socialist fatherland, Lenin severely condemned opportunism in this matter. He also sternly criticized relaxation of vigilance, infatuation with successes, the practice of deceiving oneself with the illusion that one is the stronger after winning victories, and negligence in performing national defense tasks in a country where the proletariat has won in the struggle.

Lenin pointed out: Importance must be attached to defense of the socialist fatherland. To do otherwise is completely erroneous and, nonrevolutionary. He called upon all socialist workers and citizens to consider defense of the socialist fatherland their sacred obligation and glorious responsibility. When their socialist fatherland is invaded, they must bring their forces into full play to annihilate the enemy and protect their country.

While engaged in construction during peacetime, they must heighten their vigilance, strengthen their national defense capabilities to a maximum, and be ready in every respect to defend their socialist fatherland.

Lenin not only devised the concept of building national defense of a socialist state and protecting the socialist fatherland, but also pointed out the basic issues concerning organization and construction of this national defense. In correctly evaluating the decisive role of the masses in the revolution, the armed uprising and the revolutionary war, Marx and Engels as well as Lenin once pointed out that the liberation war and the self-defense war of the oppressed peoples had to be an all-peoples national war. Lenin particularly valued this viewpoint in the course of leading and carrying out the war to protect the young Soviet state against the bandits inside and outside the country and in the course of discussing the war to protect the socialist fatherland. The people's intent in the war to protect the fatherland is by nature closely and entirely linked with the people's intent in the national defense tasks to protect the socialist fatherland. In wartime all the people participate in war; in peacetime all the people fulfill their national defense obligation. The national defense of a socialist state must be an all-people national defense. Lenin said: "In fulfilling their absolute duty, all laboring people will do their utmost to restore and intensify the national defense capability of our country." Lenin stressed that it is necessary for all the people to constantly uphold vigilance in face of the imperialists' acts of sabotage and aggression. Be fully aware of the duty to protect the socialist fatherland, and adopt a strict attitude toward national defense. All the people, including farmers, all strata of laboring people, and mainly male and female youth must participate in the organizations for the protection of socialism and must be trained in military arts. It is necessary to militarize all the people in order to strengthen this base and to build the people's armed forces to serve as a core for the building of socialism on a massive scale so as to intensify the country's potential for economic and national defense. Lenin greatly upheld the role of mass organizations under the leadership of the party in mobilizing all the people to participate in the tasks of national defense. Once the task to protect the socialist fatherland has become the revolutionary task of all the people, then, according to Lenin, it will be the firmest guarantee for the integrity of the socialist fatherland in dealing with victory in the imperialists' war of aggression.

Lenin considered war as a challenge for all economic forces and organized forces in each nation. Therefore, in order to win a victory in the war to safeguard the fatherland, there must be a strong comprehensive national defense. This must be the result of protracted, hectic, resolute, persistent and disciplined work on a mass basis. This massive effort, which includes all aspects--political, spiritual, economic, and military--will create political and spiritual unanimity. To establish revolutionary discipline in a very steady manner, build a socialist economy, consolidate the rear, and intensify military forces it is necessary to build a potential for comprehensive defense for the country. The building of national defense cannot be a separate task; it is entirely linked with the building of socialism. By building a socialist economy with modern industry and agriculture, there will be a strong steadfast national defense. Therefore, it is necessary to closely and comprehensively coordinate intensification of the potential with constant building and consolidation of national defense strength.