

ARMY JOURNAL ENDS ARTICLE ON LENIN, DEFENSE

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

[Text] In building a strong, comprehensive national defense to protect the socialist fatherland, Lenin attached particular importance to vigorously developing the political and moral advantages of the superior socialist regime. These political and moral advantages are a basic factor in the national defense strength of the socialist state.

Lenin affirmed: One can never defeat a people whose majority of workers and peasants, through their experience, understand and realize that they are protecting their administration--the Soviet administration, an administration of workers--and an undertaking that, if carried out successfully, will guarantee for them and their children the ability to enjoy all the fruits of their cultural activities and their creative human labor.

According to Lenin, these political and moral advantages are mainly manifested in the close relationship and unity of the people, in their unified, ironlike determination, in their ability to act singlemindedly, and in their selfless sacrifice under normal conditions and particularly under the most critical conditions in their lives. Lenin said: The socialist regime is the most stable basis, the source of moral strength and revolutionary creativity of the masses in all fields in general and in the military and national defense fields in particular. He upheld the role of political education and ideological leadership. In this regard, the key task is education in patriotism, in readiness to sacrifice one's life in defending the socialist fatherland, in the concept of voluntary discipline, and in the strict observance of discipline in productive labor and in all revolutionary activities.

Lenin paid particular attention to educating the masses in revolutionary vigilance so they would constantly stand ready in resolve and ready to act and could positively and expeditiously cope with any schemes, sabotage, or aggression on the part of imperialism. He also closely related the salvation of the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic from annihilation by imperialism with reform and development of the national economy. He pointed out on several occasions the extremely vital role of the economy in developing national defense capabilities. He said in conclusion: Only by reforming the Russian economy can we make Russia capable of defending itself.

As soon as the war to defend the country ended successfully, Lenin pointed out the key role of the socialist economy in consolidating national defense. He said: We have discouraged many powerful countries from launching armed aggression against our country. How long this situation will last, we cannot say for certain. We must clearly realize, however, that a slight change in the situation will invite the greedy and brutal imperialists to attack us again. Therefore, we must be ready to cope with such an eventuality. First of all, we must restore and then stabilize our economy.

Lenin constantly held that the national defense of the socialist state can remain strong only when its economy is also strong. Achievements scored in developing the socialist economy will improve national defense capabilities and create and provide all the material bases needed for national defense and in time of war will provide manpower, financial facilities, and technical equipment, communications facilities, grain and other material needs.

Because the Russian economy was still developing slowly following the October Revolution, Lenin affirmed: We cannot tolerate the existence of our small-scale agricultural economy. We must rapidly reform and develop it into large-scale socialist production. He strongly recommended: We must pay particular attention to this because only in this way can our socialist state successfully cope with a future war of aggression launched by the imperialists.

Lenin said: Economic restoration, development of production and building of socialist material and technical bases must be closely coordinated with strengthening national defense capabilities so as to guarantee meeting army needs and the requirements of developing military forces and consolidating national defense.

He directed economic restoration and development of the socialist economy along two lines--coordination with national defense and support of national defense--considering this a long-range, permanent basic task of the entire national economy.

On training the masses, Lenin on the one hand vigorously recommended that it was necessary to improve their production capabilities and economic knowledge so as to increase labor productivity, step up production and develop the country. On the other hand, he pointed out that it was necessary to improve the people's military capabilities and knowledge so they can stand ready to defend the country. These capabilities of the masses will contribute to strengthening both the economy and national defense of the socialist state.

Along with advising the strengthening of political, moral and economic aspects, Lenin paid special attention to building a hardcore military force--a powerful modern and regular army of the working class. He said: To protect the worker-peasant administration against the brigands, that is, the landlords and capitalists, we must have a powerful Red Army. If we have a powerful Red Army, we will be invincible. At the same time, Lenin paid attention to building a socialist militia organization and a civil guard network.

Lenin said: In the imperialist era, when the imperialists, with their excessively bellicose nature, have vast aggressor armies at their disposal, equipped with modern weapons, and persistently continue their schemes against the world revolutionary movement and socialist revolution, the building of a new-style army, a powerful socialist army, to protect the socialist fatherland must be the primary concern of any successful revolution. Lenin asserted: This army's mission is to protect the gains of the revolution, of socialist construction and of the socialist fatherland. To fulfill this mission, the army must unceasingly endeavor to turn itself into an army of the working class and to always remain a truly people's revolutionary army. The party of the proletariat must closely lead the army through the maze of party organizations and political tasks. This is the source of strength and the foundation of victory for the army.

Lenin set forth the principles regarding the organization, equipment, education and training of the army, the guidelines and policies concerning the training of cadres and the improvement of their skills, and so forth. He also paid great attention to building the material and technical bases for the army and encouraged the application of the latest scientific and technological accomplishments to the military sphere, since without the help of science it is impossible to build a modern army. After the war, building the economy and the country was obviously the primary task.

Lenin never underestimated the importance of consolidating national defense. He consistently stressed the need for military readiness. As far as the Red army was concerned, he pointed out: We must maintain the combat readiness of our Red army and step up its combat ability. He said: In peacetime, the Red army must be well trained but should not be very large; it is necessary to build a powerful military force as well as a large reserve military force. He warned: We must manage in such a way that, while reducing the numerical strength of the army, we should be able to maintain its basic core, then the republic will be able to lighten the very heavy burden of military supplies. While reducing its numerical strength, we must insure the capability of rebuilding and mobilizing a larger military force whenever an emergency arises.

Although the entire people are militarized, the regular army and the reserve force must be the central force of the people in protecting the socialist fatherland. Lenin's doctrine of protecting the socialist fatherland is a great contribution to the treasure of Marxist-Leninist military theory and socialist revolutionary theory during the period of transition from capitalism to socialism in the entire world.

With this doctrine and under Lenin's direct leadership, the Soviet working class and people under extremely difficult conditions, defeated the armed interference by 14 imperialist countries acting hand in glove with the local counterrevolutionary clique and consistently protected the gains of the October Revolution and mankind's first socialist state. In the light of this doctrine, the CPSU headed by Stalin led the Soviet people to successfully build socialism and consolidate national defense. The Soviet Union's overall preparations and readiness enabled it to defeat the aggressor armies of the German and Japanese fascists in the 1941-1945 great patriotic war, protect the territorial integrity of the Soviet fatherland and save mankind from the fascist danger.

By applying Lenin's doctrine of protecting the socialist fatherland to the specific situation in our country, our party achieved brilliant success in building a politically, economically and militarily powerful socialist North Vietnam. With an all-people national defense built under the conditions of a continuing war in South Vietnam, the people of North Vietnam heroically defeated two wars of destruction of the U.S. imperialists while steadily protecting the north and gloriously fulfilling the task of liberating the south and cooperating with the southern people in winning total victory in the historic 1975 spring general offensive and uprising.

Today our fatherland is independent and unified and has entered a new state in which the entire country is advancing to socialism. Under the new historic conditions, Lenin's doctrine of protecting the socialist fatherland is guiding our party in developing its military line and science which are aimed at building a steadfast and powerful all-people national defense to protect our people's socialist revolution and socialist construction and the independence, sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of independent and unified socialist Vietnam.