

GEN SONG HAO ADDRESSES TRUONG SON FORCES

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[Text] On 22 February 1976 the Truong Son forces held a festive meeting to welcome their achievements in gloriously completing the task of combat support and to receive new tasks in the new revolutionary stage. Present at the meeting was Col Gen Song Hao, member of the VWP Central Committee, deputy secretary of the Central Military Party Committee and head of the General Political Department. Also attending were representatives of the local party organization and administration, various organs of the Ministry of National Defense and various armed branches and military services and many cadres and officers attached to the Truong Son forces command.

After the opening speech by the comrade commander, the comrade political commissar of the Truong Son forces read a report pointing out the outstanding armed exploits and achievements recorded by the Truong Son forces during the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation. Through 17 years of combat and other operations, the cadres and combatants on this front line overcame countless difficulties and ordeals, fought valiantly and worked selflessly to outstandingly fulfill the historic missions entrusted to them by the party, the government and the people. The Truong Son forces opened tens of thousands of kilometers of roads crisscrossing the Truong Son mountain chain, moved tens of millions of tons of supplies in support of combat operations and the people's lives, destroyed tens of thousands of enemy troops, shot down thousands of U.S.-puppet aircraft, built firm and strong strategic transport forces capable of operating with coordination among various armed branches, and satisfactorily fulfilled their international obligations.

The Truong Son forces can boast about 55 of their units and 34 of their cadres and combatants who have had the honor to receive the title "Hero of the People's Armed Forces" bestowed by the National Assembly and the government; and some thousands of other units and cadres and combatants who have been awarded service and combat exploit medals.

- The comrade political commissar of the Truong Son forces clearly expressed the determination of all cadres and combatants on this entire line to satisfactorily fulfill their new tasks in the new revolutionary stage, to contribute to consolidating national defense and building a prosperous and strong socialist fatherland.

Col Gen Song Hao addressed the meeting. On behalf of the Central Military Party Committee and the Ministry of National Defense, the comrade warmly acclaimed the outstanding armed exploits and great achievements scored by the Truong Son forces--a heroic collective of the VPA which has contributed, together with all our entire people and army, to advancing the great anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation toward total victory.

About the extraordinary maturity and great armed exploits of the Truong Son forces, Comrade Song Hao said: Beginning from a small force charged with some missions taking place in accordance with the change in seasons and using chiefly rudimentary transportation means, and from moving on foot along narrow trails, the Truong Son forces have advanced to a stage in which they can simultaneously perform different tasks, building a network of roads reaching out in all directions toward all battlefields while fighting the enemy in the air as well as on the ground, organizing transportation activities on an ever-larger scale, conducting transportation operations by land, pipeline and water, overcoming all natural obstacles and continually maintaining their operations day and night during the dry or typhoon seasons.

Through performing combat and other operations under extremely difficult, hard and fierce conditions, the Truong Son forces have constantly developed the "determined to fight and win" tradition, advanced resolutely and have taken the initiative to launch continuous offensives. Uniting and achieving close coordination with the general communications branches of the state and the local area and with various groups of assault youths, they have set up a relatively good transportation network and become a force capable of operating with coordination in combat and transportation and of outstandingly fulfilling all strategic transport missions in support of military campaigns and combat operations.

Comrade Song Hao continued: During the greatly victorious general offensive and uprising in the spring of 1975, strictly carrying out the orders issued by the high command and fully grasping the principles of boldness, quickness, surprise and certain victory, the Truong Son forces continually maintained a two-way transportation flow, moving forces, an army at a time, sending great quantities of material supplies and technical equipment to the various battlefields and carrying wounded and sick soldiers to the rear; expeditiously deployed combat forces to the fighting areas; exercised coordination in fighting the enemy; sent a big force to capture the coastal plains; prepared roads and bridges for the combat armies to advance quickly; insured the transportation of material and technical supplies for our troops; and served the people's movement.

After discussing the situation and tasks of the revolution and the current missions of the people's armed forces, Col Gen Sung Hao pointed out the tasks of the Truong Son forces in the new revolutionary stage. He urged all cadres and combatants to be fully aware of the situation and tasks and to consider it as important to fulfill all construction and training tasks in the future as it was to carry out the tasks of combat support and combat during the resistance. He said: It is necessary to make the organization firm and strong in all respects; train the contingents of cadres and combatants into technically experienced men having organizational and operational ability; constantly enhance the revolutionary nature and fine tradition of the heroic VPA and Truong Son forces; strengthen unity and uphold discipline; heighten political responsibility, fighting spirit and revolutionary zeal; and step up the "determined to win" emulation drive to score even greater, new achievements.

On behalf of the Truong Son forces, the comrade lieutenant general commander pledged to strictly carry out the instructions of the Central Military Party Committee and readily perform all new tasks in a satisfactory manner in order to be forever worthy of being cadres and combatants with the honor to carry out combat and other operations on the historic line named after great President Ho Chi Minh.