

GEN SONG HAO REVIEWS WAR IN INTERVIEW WITH ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI

Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI 7 Apr 71 p 6 A

[Lt Col Jan Budzinski interview with Lt Gen Song Hao, chief of the Central Political Board of the DRV Army]

[Excerpts] During his stay in Hanoi, our special reporter, Lt Col Jan Budzinski, was received by Lt Gen Song Hao, who answered a number of questions on the current political-military situation in Vietnam during an informal talk. The report on this talk follows.

The general arrives. He is not very tall, has a dark complexion, and is slightly grizzled. Like all officers, no epaulets on his shoulders. There are just two stars on the red tabs of his collar. The general belongs to the old revolutionary cadre which fought against the Japanese and French. In 1947 he was one of the first commissars of the famous 308th Division of the Vietnamese People's Liberation Army which distinguished itself against the French on the Nam-Ha front. The general has been chief of the Central Political Board since 1961 and is also a member of the Central Committee of the party.

The general smiles and cordially invites me to sit by him on the settee. In keeping with Vietnamese customs, our talks begin with questions on health and impressions of the country. Imperceptibly, it then switches to the Vietnam liberation struggle and the current situation in Vietnam. The general speaks quickly, and I can hardly follow with my notes. He smiles all the time and pours out anecdotes.

When I say that some problems will have to be ignored because of secrecy, the general recalls that Boris Polevoy, having met a platoon commander of the South Vietnam liberation force, asked him to appraise the combat spirit of the U.S. soldiers. As the commander said nothing, Polevoy quickly added: "If this is a secret do not tell me." "No, this is no secret," the commander answered. "I simply did not know what to say because up to now I have not met with this spirit. I have met only with dead Americans and those coming to us with their hands up..."

Here are the brief basic contents of General Song Hao's statement:

The Vietnamese people are scoring a great victory. The soldiers at the front are fighting well, and the industrious people of our nucleus are implementing their production tasks well and are continually ready for struggle and for all defense work. We are proud of this, and this reaffirms our conviction that our people will score their deserved victory. No conditions have been better for this than those at present.

With 15 years of the founding our party, the Vietnamese people made a revolution and took over. Our forces were most then. We had a few thousand party members and few cadres, and our level of education, science, and technology was very low. All the same, we won; this was possible because of the indestructible unity of our party, and because its actions were inspired by reason and courage, and the people gave it their utmost confidence and showed the will to fight and to believe in victory.

many other victories throughout the country. Our armed forces and people in the past year also smashed another step of the reactionary Nixon doctrine which has forced Asians to kill Asians and Indochinese to kill Indochinese, Vietnamized the war in South Vietnam, and intensified the U.S. war of aggression in Laos, further weakening the Nixon doctrine, plunging the Nixon clique's strategic and tactical (?schemes) into deeper deadlock and defeat, and placing its forces on the defensive.

Weathering the test of actual combat, our revolutionary forces have made another stride in their growth. Our armed forces have learned more lessons and improved their tactics, strategies, and techniques, strengthening the revolutionary (?situation) as a whole, particularly the Lao revolution. The situation has favored our revolution, encouraging us to march forward to even greater victories.

However, obdurate and bellicose by nature, the enemy frantically continues to seek to implement Nixon's Asian doctrine and prolong the U.S. war of aggression in Indochina, in Laos in particular. However, our comrades officers and men of the three armed forces branches must understand the motto: Everything for the front, everything for the defeat of the U.S. imperialists and lackeys. [words indistinct] in well-being.

We must take this favorable opportunity to improve and strengthen our forces in all areas, coordinate our combat techniques, strengthen internal and international solidarity, heighten our vigilance, never underestimate the enemy, further expand the victories, take the initiative, overcome all obstacles, march forward to attack the enemy more strongly and repeatedly under all circumstances and in all battlefronts throughout the country, and score even greater victories. The new year with brighter atmosphere, new victories, and new liberated areas, [as heard] we must unite with determination to march forward to new, great victories, making the new year a victorious one.

Once again, we of the Supreme Command would like to express our greetings to, and confidence in our comrades.

14 April 1971

The Supreme Command of the Lao People's Liberation Army

Souphanouvong Greet King

PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English 0636 GMT 15 Apr 71 D

[Text] Sam Neua April 15 (KPL)--On behalf of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, and his family, Prince Souphanouvong, chairman of the EPP.F. Central Committee, has sent a message of greeting to the King of Laos on the occasion of the Lao traditional New Year.

The prince wished the king "good health so as to bring peace and happiness to the country, which are the earnest aspirations of the Patriotic Front and entire people of Laos."

KPL SAYS 39 VIENTIANE TROOPS DEFECT NEAR LUANG PRABANG

PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English 0631 GMT 15 Apr 71 D

[Text] Sam Neua April 15 (KPL)--39 soldiers of the Vientiane puppet army including a company officer stationed at Pak U, northeast of Luang Prabang provincial capital, on March 28, 1971, crossed over to the revolutionary side, bringing along their weapons.

A few days earlier, a soldier of the Vientiane puppet 48th Battalion in Huoi Sai (Luong Nam Tha Province), and a non-com of a commando company of the special forces' in the same area went over to the revolutionary side, bringing along their weapons.

For 9 years our people developed their resistance movement against the French colonizers under very difficult conditions. Our armed forces were small in number, had no fighting experience, and lacked weapons and ammunition. True, we had many friends in the world, but they were far away. In 1945-50 we fought surrounded by hostile, reactionary forces.

Despite these difficulties, the entire party, our people, and our army unitedly waged a stubborn struggle, following a correct political and military line. Fighting, we became ever stronger and won bigger and bigger victories. Finally, our people defeated the imperialist French colonizers although they boasted of the strongest land army in the world.

Our situation now is quite different. We have a strong proletarian party over 1 million members, a correct line of action, and rich fighting experiences. We have many military, political, and economic cadres hardened through the three great revolutionary struggles. We have a strong army which has scored many victories and gained greatly in strength. The unity of the party and people is now solid and unshakable.

Half of our country, North Vietnam, which is engaged in socialist construction, is completely liberated. It is a base for revolution throughout the country and a strong base of a great front. The entire socialist camp, which is our strong and enduring support, is on our side. Oppressed peoples and progressive mankind are on our side.

All there are the valuable achievements left to us by our beloved President Ho Chi Minh after 60 years of revolutionary activity. With these achievements and this might, we will certainly fulfill his sacred testament; we will fight until the U.S. aggressors are completely defeated, we will build socialism, and we will worthily contribute to the world revolution.

The U.S. aggressors are now in a difficult situation, which condemns them to defeat. They are again committing a grave strategic error by trying to prolong the aggressive war in Vietnam. They are also committing a number of tactical errors by operating in difficult terrain at the wrong time with incorrect methods. This is why they suffer defeats in clashes with our troops, although they are stronger in their material and technical resources.

We know that U.S. imperialism is stubborn in its nature and will not give up easily. We know that it has great economic and military potential, but we have a determined will to fight. We want to fight and win. We also have the correct tactic of struggle, which will help us defeat our enemy.

The U.S. imperialists admit that they are unable to defeat the Vietnamese people through military force. But they cannot come to terms with defeat. Although they are on the losing side, they want to negotiate from strength. Forced to withdraw their troops, they try to implement their plans through so-called Vietnamization. They assert that for all Americans they want to avoid the tragic death of U.S. soldiers on Vietnam's fields, but they expand the aggression to Cambodia and Laos. Implementing the Nixon doctrine, the United States wants natives to kill natives; they want Indochinese to kill Indochinese. They will not succeed in this, however.

Johnson introduced 500,000 U.S. soldiers into South Vietnam because the Saigon regime and its puppet troops could not manage on their own. Johnson's doctrine proved faulty. Now Nixon is trying to withdraw some of his troops, while thinking of preserving a strong position in Vietnam. This is a vicious circle which will lead to the final defeat of the Americans.

The military theory and practice of the U.S. imperialists is full of contradictions. The United States seeks to cut off the base from the front to weaken the South Vietnam liberation forces. In fact, in the past 6 years it has found no effective way to do this. For over 3 years it constantly bombed the DRV and dropped millions of bombs. It lost thousands of planes and many pilots, and everyone knows the result. The U.S. imperialists have suffered many losses in men and materiel, suffered serious defeats in battle, and are politically isolated. The position and authority of the United States among capitalist countries has weakened.

Attacking Cambodia, the United States asserted that it wanted to end the Vietnam war in this way. U.S. aggression was a fiasco. Now the Cambodian people have liberated seven-tenths of their country with over 4 million people. Cambodia is now in the solidarity front of three Indochinese countries and fighting with them against the U.S. imperialists and their flunkies. The United States has now extended aggressive war to Laos, where it is also suffering heavy defeats and where it will find itself in an even more difficult situation. (This talk took place when the fighting in Laos was underway).

A Western reporter said ironically that the United States has the technology that can send a man to the moon, but it lacks the technology to enable its soldiers to withdraw from South Vietnam's jungles. Reality has confirmed this view.

The U.S. aggressors will certainly not defeat the peoples of the three Indochinese countries. On the contrary, they will suffer further setbacks and be completely defeated. We are heading for victory. The Vietnamese people have rich traditions of unbending struggle against external aggressors. They have scored victories before, and they will win this liberation struggle as well.

Our greatest joy is to know we have many friends in all five continents. This lifts our hearts and inspires us with belief in final victory. The fraternal socialist countries are giving us special aid. To be visited by someone from the socialist countries, as you, is to us a visit from the base, so to speak. Each of these visits reminds us of the support and aid provided by fraternal countries and encourages us to fight.

This is why, on behalf of the Vietnamese People's Army, I wish to convey through you our cordial thanks to the PZPR, the Polish Government, all the Polish people, and the Polish People's Armed Forces for the support and valuable aid given to the Vietnamese people in their struggle for national salvation, against U.S. aggression, and in socialist construction.

On behalf of our army I wish to extend cordial greetings and wishes to comrade minister of national defense of Poland to comrade chief of the Central Political Board of the Polish Armed Forces, and to other comrades of the Ministry of National Defense. We send our soldierly greetings to all officers, commissioned officers, and soldiers of the fraternal Polish People's Armed Forces....

The talk lasted over an hour. The general asked me to tea and to have a joint photograph taken at the entrance of the building. Before departing, he cordially shook my hand, wished me good health, and drove off. "Please, forgive me, but you certainly know that many urgent duties await me in this complicated situation."