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SONG HAO ON STRENGTHENING OF BASIC UNITS

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 5 April 1967--S

(First installment of Maj. Gen. Song Hao's talk at a conference convened recently by the Directorate for Political Affairs to discuss the task of building and strengthening basic units--read by announcer)

(Text) Dear comrades, our people and armed forces are facing the great historic duty of fighting and defeating the U.S. aggressors in order to protect the north, liberate the south, and advance toward national reunification. Although the more they fight, the more they are defeated, the U.S. imperialists stubbornly continue to plunge deeper down the path of invading our country.

Faced with the anti-U.S. national salvation situation and task, our party, people, and armed forces have resolutely concentrated their strength to fulfill the great historic duty of the nation. To meet the requirements of this glorious duty, our armed forces have simultaneously conducted fighting along with positively building and further heightening their efforts in all fields.

The basic, key trend includes the very important task of building and strengthening basic units. In the past few days, you comrades have heard the dissemination and discussion of the instructions of the Directorate for Political Affairs on the building and strengthening of basic units. Today, I wish to express certain viewpoints in order to stress the importance of this task with regard to the subject of heightening the quality of the armed forces.

1--The strategic position of basic units

Revolution is the task of the masses. Each party's line or policy can only be transformed into material strength when the majority of the masses are enlightened and volunteer to carry it out. Therefore, in the leadership over the political struggle, as well as armed struggle, our party has always attached importance to the mobilization and organization of the masses.

Building basic units is itself the task of mobilizing and organizing the masses to fight and defeat the enemy on the armed struggle front. The company is the most widely used basic organization of the armed forces. The position of the company in building and combat is of great importance.

Each company has a chi bo which is the party's basic organization in the armed forces, the nucleus of leadership and unity of the entire company, a bridge linking the party's leadership organization and the masses, and a place where the community leads, educates, and trains party members.

The company is a place where masses of military men concentrate, a place where all party lines and policies are to be directly carried out, and a link in the (?implementation) of all policies and in the leadership of all levels. The company is a place of political education and ideological improvement for cadres, party members, combatants, and group members. The company is a school to form tenacious and strong revolutionary combatants and outstanding citizens to carry on the revolutionary task of building and protecting socialism and communism.

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The first drivers company, which had traveled more than 360,000 kilometers and transported tens of thousands of tons of goods in service of the battlefields, had insured complete safety for men, vehicles, and goods. Militiamen in village N, Nghe An Province, had shot down four U.S. jetplanes with rifles. Militiamen in Nghi Xuan district sailed out on the high sea, shot dead a U.S. air pirate, and set fire to an intruding U.S. warship.

Over the past year, the armed forces in the fourth zone have won a splendid victory in downing 289 aircraft, including 31 brought down by militia and homeguard units, in setting afire 25 American warships, properly insuring communication and transport work, building many fighting villages. . . .

With these victories, the whole zone, as well as Quang Binh Province and Vinh Linh area were awarded Independence Orders, First Class. Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces and Con Co Island were awarded Independence Orders, Second Class, and hundreds of units and thousands of officers and men were awarded different kinds of order.

The congress addressed a letter to the VWP Central Committee, the DRV Government and President Ho Chi Minh, pledging readiness to fight and determination to defeat the U.S. aggressors. It also sent a letter to the people and Liberation Armed Forces in South Vietnam pledging to learn from and fight side by side with them and record bigger and bigger victories, thus contributing to the defense of North Vietnam, the liberation of South Vietnam, and the reunification of the country.

(Editor's Note: Peking NCHA International Service in English at 1922 GMT on 12 April adds: A resolution adopted at the meeting calls on the armed forces of the region to keep raising their combat power and thoroughly defeat the U.S. aggressors. NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN carried editorials today warmly hailing the convening of the meeting and the brilliant victories scored by the armed forces and people in the Fourth Military Zone.)

WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATORS VISIT AIR RAID SCENE

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0549 GMT 13 April 1967--B

(Text) Hanoi, 13 April--Warships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet cruising off North Vietnam's coast on 9 April fired many artillery rounds on Hai Nhan village and other localities in Tinh Gia, a coastal district of Thanh Hoa Province, where a group of the fourth investigation delegation of the Bertrand Russell international tribunal was gathering material evidence and other documents on U.S. war crimes.

The shelling lasted from 0930 to 0950. One of the shells burst about 200 yards from the workplace of Mrs. Gissele Halini, a lawyer at the Paris court and a member of the law committee of the international war crimes tribunal; Francis Kaln, French doctor and professor of the Paris Medical College; and Marcello Cini, professor of physics at Rome University.

Immediately after the air raid, the foreign investigators went to the scene. Afterward, they affirmed that the U.S. warships had fired on a residential quarter with palmleaf roofed houses and that there were no military targets there.

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The company is a source for the formation and replacement of cadres and party members in the armed forces and a birthplace for heroes and emulation combatants of the emulation movement to score achievements in killing the enemy and protecting the fatherland. The company is a unit providing cadres and combatants with basic training and technical and tactical information. The company is a unit that directly manages and uses the material, technical, and equipment resources of the armed forces. In combat, the company is a basic tactical unit that directly organizes the implementation of all policies, plans, orders, and combat designs of higher echelons. Large-sized units, such as regiments and divisions, can successfully fulfill all tasks only on the basis of the company's firm and strong fighting strength.

The objective of the armed forces is to fight and defeat the enemy and to fulfill all combat tasks, even under the most difficult circumstances. To fight well, we must build strong companies. The company's strength originates from the correct, creative leadership of the political and military lines of our party.

Building basic units means building men and strong companies, combining correct lines and policies, combining individuals and communities, associating men with weapons and technique and transforming them into sources of Herculean strength to defeat the enemy and fulfill all the military and political tasks the armed forces are entrusted with by the party. Therefore building firm and strong companies is a realistic and most necessary task to heighten the armed forces' fighting strength and a problem of key importance in the entire task of building the armed forces.

Correct awareness of the importance of the building of companies means thoroughly understanding the building and combat tasks of our armed forces in the present phase. From the beginning of the activation of the armed forces as well as during the process of exerting leadership over building and combat, our party has attached great importance to the building of firm, strong companies. The slogan, "Care for and serve the company" is not only a task formula or a political task but has become the work and tradition of all leading organizations.

Each phase and each historic period of the revolution has called for building strong companies and for insuring the fulfillment of political and military tasks in accordance with the situation and conditions of that period. In the previous resistance, we posed the problem and set forth the direction of building shock-force companies, independent, strong companies. After the restoration of peace, we advocated the building of good companies, the three-first companies, and recently companies entitled "heroic and determined-to-win" units. In carrying out the great historic anti-U.S. national salvation task of our people in the present revolutionary phase, our armed forces must simultaneously fight and build, constantly heighten their quality in all fields, and insure victory over the U.S. aggressors under all circumstances.

The new pressing significance of the present problem of strengthening and building companies is closely connected with the requirements of the present situation and the tasks of the revolution and the armed forces.

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Combat realities of the past few years demonstrate that many units have fulfilled their duties in an outstanding manner because they have had high combativity. The companies of the Nguyen Viet Xuan battalion are strong in the political and ideological fields, stable in the organizational field, capable in the technical and tactical fields, and very resourceful and inventive. That is why during the past two years, they have downed more than 90 U.S. planes under difficult conditions and complex circumstances. The examples set forth by the Con Co steel island demonstrate that if basic units are stable and staunch, no matter how arduous and difficult the situation, our officers and men will courageously and staunchly overcome all difficulties and heroically and resourcefully fulfill all duties in a successful way.

Since our equipment has been improved, our army has a strong material base, (?with) many branches and services. Therefore, the building of strong basic units in various branches and services, units having a stable political and ideological level and a high technical level, is very necessary for fulfilling their tasks, whether they fight independently or together.

While building basic units, we must pay special attention to building infantry companies, because infantry is the decisive force on the battlefield. Having a good infantry, we will surely win under any circumstance, no matter how daring the U.S. bandits are. Moreover, we require a great deal from our infantry. Infantrymen have engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the enemy, and have solved the victory-or-defeat problem on the battlefield. The infantry force is the center of the task of cooperation among various branches and services. The infantry force is our strong point, but a weak point for the enemy. That is why we must pay more attention to building infantry companies in order to develop our advantageous position, aggravate the weak point of the enemy, and win decisive victory in the war.

We now have many advantageous conditions for building basic units. The correct, creative, and ingenious political and military line of our party is a source of power for building strong companies. Moreover, our men are good. Our material and technical bases and equipment are stronger than before. The ranks of our army men have good political and (?class) bases. Almost all our army men belong to the basic class, are members of the labor youth union. They are politically conscious, eager to obtain independence and freedom, attached to the socialist system, and faithful to the party and people. They have a high cultural level and good health. They are courageous and intelligent, eager to progress, and resolved to fulfill their duties. They have been tested, trained, and matured in combat.

The ranks of officers in basic units have been consolidated. They have a high political level, and must come from the basic class. They are party members or members of the youth union. Their level of political consciousness is relatively high. They are knowledgeable in the fields of culture, science, and techniques. They are courageous in combat and devoted to all their tasks.

Our officers and men fully approve and have confidence in the party's policies and lines. They have developed a high militant determination, a spirit of solidarity and mutual love, a spirit of achieving solidarity with the people, a spirit of international solidarity, and a sense of good organization and discipline.

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The rear of our armed forces is the comprehensively steady and strong socialist North Vietnam, which is a great source of replenishment and a solid buttress for the armed forces. Our people's anti-U.S. national salvation struggle, which shines with the just cause, enjoys the sympathy, support, and encouragement from the socialist camp and the revolutionary movement throughout the world.

Moreover, we have rich and creative experiences gained from building an army in peacetime, from the former resistance against the French colonialists, and during the present resistance against the U.S. aggressors. War is raging throughout our entire country. Our army is carrying out its main mission which is to exterminate the aggressors and defend the country. Victorious fighting is the ultimate goal of all the army's activities. Combat realities of the present anti-U.S. national salvation struggle are making it possible for us to accurately assess and evaluate the various aspects of our army building task. Combat has cast more light on many problems concerning military theories and sciences.

The battlefield is the best school for armymen. Lenin once said that one day of a stormy revolutionary period is worth 20 years in which history is asleep. Now we can say that the value of one year of building the army in wartime is obviously greater than that of one year in peacetime. Our army had experiences drawn from the war against the Japanese and French. Now it has experiences drawn from the war against the Americans, who are the most powerful imperialists. Thus, it has conditions for realistically developing the traditions and power of a heroic army, a heroic nation, of combatants who are both wise and courageous and who are invincible.

In the north, the National Assembly and government recently praised many heroic units and thousands of "determined-to-win" units of our armed forces. In these heroic and "determined-to-win" units are concentrated the most progressive experiences drawn from the army building and combat during two years of the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle. On the great frontline, southern people and liberation troops are winning victory after victory, strengthening their revolutionary heroism, and creating many new rich experiences. The precious experiences of both zones will help us build companies in our entire army and make them stronger and more stable.

2--Requirements and content of the task of building strong and stable basic units

The building of basic units is aimed at making them stable in every respect, acquire high combat capacity, and fully capable of fulfilling all combat duties and work assignments in an outstanding manner in all situations and on all battlefields. Therefore, the content of the task of building basic units must be comprehensive and in accordance with the standards set by the "determined-to-win" units and must be based on building these units politically.

On the basis of the experiences drawn from the realities of our army's combat and building, a strong and stable company must meet the following requirements: it must have a strong and stable party branch in accordance with the four-good requirement, far-reaching political and ideological activities, internal unity, army-people unity, international unity, satisfactory democracy, strict voluntary discipline, effective combat training, satisfactory management of the use of material and technical resources and equipment, leadership, command, and fighting characteristics. It must carry out daily activities in accordance with the revolutionary nature and traditions of our army.

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A--It is necessary to have firm, strong chi bo's in accordance with the four-good requirements. The chi bo is the party's basic organization in the armed forces and the leadership and unity nucleus of the company. Therefore, the chi bo must be a strong bulwark of the company. The reason Con Co Island has become a heroic island is because first of all the chi bo's there are firm and strong and have given all units on the island a firm fighting will, a self-reliant spirit, and a spirit of not being arrogant when victorious, of not being subjective, and of not slackening the pace when faced with difficulties.

In training the chi bo's have oriented the masses' enthusiasm to perform realistic training, achieve combat targets, and make preparations in all fields in order to be able to conduct continuous and protracted fighting and to fight under the most difficult and complicated conditions. In combat, the chi bo's have firmly maintained the party's principle of democratic centralism, correctly realized the enemy plots and schemes in time, exerted leadership over the troops, gained experience in training units, and drawn up better and better combat plans. The more they fight, the stronger the chi bo's become and the greater victories they score. The chi bo's on Con Co Island have devoted constant efforts to training party members and group members; they have paid attention to building unity and discipline and to satisfactorily fulfilling the main tasks of their units, and carried out and guided others in carrying out all lines and policies.

These facts prove that with a strong chi bo the company can become strong and steady and that although far from the leadership of higher echelons, the company can always satisfactorily fulfill its tasks. Originating from the company's task requirements, a strong chi bo must be firm in ideology, sound in organization, keen in politics, steady in principles, rich and flexible in task methods, closely united with the masses, and able to organize and lead units to brilliantly fulfill all tasks under the conditions of coordinated or independent action, under difficult or favorable conditions.

The strength of a chi bo is dependent on the good quality of party members and outstanding branch commissioners and secretaries. If each chi bo has such party members as Nguyen Viet Xuan of the Third Antiaircraft Company, Le Ngoc Van of Con Co Island, Duong Chi Huyen of the Ha Tinh regional forces, and others--even if it has only a few (such) party members--it remains a strong chi bo. Good party members are the basis for strong chi bo's. In order to have good party members, the chi bo organization must be very firm. The chi bo's must be united and animated by the same will and firmly maintain the principles of leadership over communities. Chi bo leaders must make work assignments and develop all relations between the chi bo, branch commissioners and the company's political-military heads. Party activities must be correct and of a quality that meets the combat circumstances.

Strong communities are a source of great strength. The strength of an organization is not simply the strength of many individuals but the great strength of the community in intelligence and ability.

At present, the four-good chi bo's are strong chi bo's. We must strengthen leadership over the movement to build four-good chi bo's in order to strengthen the party organization in the basic units, thus building a firm foundation for the building of strong companies and determined-to-win units.

B--It is necessary to satisfactorily carry out the political and ideological tasks. Firm thinking and high fighting spirit constitute the basis of the revolutionary army's fighting capacity, and a factor determining victory in war. Building the army so that it acquires a firm political and ideological (?spirit) is a basic principle contained in our party's line of building the armed forces. Since our army has a firm and strong political and ideological base, in the anti-French resistance it valiantly overcame all difficulties and hardships, fought skillfully and creatively, and defeated the French aggressors. Because of this strong base, the army firmly maintained its fine revolutionary nature and traditions in peacetime, and--through struggles against all kinds of enemies on the political and ideological front--has constantly been loyal to the party and dedicated to the people, has resolutely carried out all political and military lines and tasks, and at present, together with the people, is defeating the U.S. aggressors. Therefore, the political and ideological tasks have been given top priority in the performance of all tasks and are regarded as our army's source of life.

Satisfactorily carrying out the political task means firmly grasping the principles, direction, duties, and content of the political task, applying them adequately to the political and ideological situation of respective units, and carrying out the ideological task positively, on one's own initiative, and in time. The political and ideological task must insure that cadres and combatants constantly have a correct viewpoint, stand, and thinking methods, are completely unanimous, have absolute confidence in and resolutely carry out the party's political and military lines and tasks, have an ironlike fighting determination, and enthusiastic revolutionary mettle, sharp revolutionary vigilance, a high sense of organization and discipline, and satisfactory morality and behavior, and successfully fulfill all building and combat tasks and other works in all situations and on all battlefields.

Satisfactorily carrying out the political task means knowing how to mobilize and encourage everyone so that he constantly displays fiery enthusiasm in construction and resourcefulness and gallantry in combat; unceasingly strives to learn in order to raise his technical and tactical knowledge, to master science, technology, weapons, and equipment, and to improve his cultural background. It means knowing how to mobilize and encourage everyone so that he conducts physical training, improves his fighting mettle, and thoroughly develops political and ideological superiority and the strength of man, of the leading and commanding organizations, and of the material basis, weapons, and equipment, in order to annihilate the enemy and protect the development of our forces.

In carrying out the political task, it is necessary to satisfactorily propagandize revolutionary heroism and educate our cadres, combatants, party members, and youth group members regarding revolutionary heroism. It is also necessary to unceasingly develop the revolutionary mettle of the masses and overcome negative and backward thoughts in time, to satisfactorily organize the spiritual and material life of company members, and to insure that the unit is constantly encouraged and exhibits revolutionary confidence and optimism.

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NHAN DAN ON HUMPHREY'S WEST EUROPEAN TRIP

Peking NCNA International Service in English 1813 GMT 12 April 1967--W

(Text) Hanoi, 12 April--The strong protests of the people of West Europe against Humphrey's visit to their countries reflect the unjust character of the U.S. war of aggression against Vietnam and spell out the (?grave) isolation of the United States in the world, said NHAN DAN in a commentary yesterday. The main purpose of the trip, the commentary said, was to bring further pressure to bear upon the ruling circles in these West European countries, to see that they contribute still more to the increasing spending for the Vietnam war and support intensified U.S. efforts to expand the aggressive war.

The people in West Europe indignantly condemned the United States for its towering crimes committed in Vietnam. Wherever Humphrey went in West Europe, he was chased like the bearer of a dangerous disease and was greeted with such anti-U.S. slogans as "Humphrey, assassin" and "U.S., get out of Vietnam." Massive anti-U.S. demonstrations were held throughout Humphrey's tour.

In conclusion, the commentary said that Humphrey's tour will go down in American history as the most humiliating ever experienced by the U.S. ruling circles. Should the Johnson clique continue to escalate the war of aggression against the Vietnamese people, it will be still more strongly condemned by the world's people.

Further Details

Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 11 April 1967--E (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

(Text) Hanoi, 11 April--Jacques Moalic dispatch--The main Hanoi daily newspaper today devoted an editorial to the "pitiful failure" of the U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey's visit to Europe. NHAN DAN said: The essential objective of the U.S. vice president was to exert pressure on official circles to obtain greater approval and support from them and to win over West European public opinion for the intensification and extension of the war of aggression in Vietnam. His failure is severe and pitiful.

Wishing to listen, Humphrey heard neither praise in European official circles for U.S. actions in Vietnam apart from general understanding nor a single clear promise for a flesh-and-blood contribution to the war of aggression. On the contrary, Humphrey was increasingly obliged each day to listen to the increasingly violent (word indistinct) of the Western peoples for the unheard-of U.S. crimes in Vietnam, the paper said.

The paper went on: The extent of the anti-U.S. demonstrations is the striking fact of Humphrey's trip. It shows the serious downgrading of what is called meddling in the international scene and the isolation of the United States from world opinion.

Humphrey is said to have been preparing the way for a similar future visit by Johnson, but it is unlikely that the head of the White House would dare to think of an official visit to Western Europe, the paper said.