

WINTER-SPRING

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FIASCO

OF THE 2nd DRY SEASON
"COUNTER OFFENSIVE"
OF THE U. S.
IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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FIASCO
OF THE 2nd DRY SEASON
" COUNTER - OFFENSIVE "
OF THE U.S. IN SOUTH VIETNAM

LAWYER NGUYEN HUU THO



Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho

**PRESIDENT
OF THE PRESIDUM OF
THE SOUTH VIETNAM
NATIONAL FRONT
FOR LIBERATION
CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
CONGRATULATES
THE SOUTH VIETNAM
L. A. F. AND PEOPLE
ON THE VICTORIES IN
THE WINTER - SPRING
OF 1966 - 1967**

In a letter dated June 2, 1967, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation Central Committee, wrote to the L.A.F. and people:

“Dear compatriots, cadres and fighters,

In response to the appeal of the Presidium of the N.F.L. Central Committee, you have during last Winter-Spring done all your might and main to push forward our war of resistance against U.S. aggression. The 2nd dry season “counter-offensive” of the enemy was completely defeated and we have won unprecedented victories both on the military and political fronts.

In the name of the Presidium of the N.F.L. Central Committee, I convey to our compatriots and to all cadres and fighters of the L.A.F. of South Vietnam my warmest congratulations and wish them still greater successes in the days to come.

To the families of those who had sacrificed themselves for the Fatherland, I send my best regards. Let the wounded and disabled combatants receive here my wholehearted wishes for prompt recovery.

Our great feats of arms in Winter-Spring constitute a great stimulus which consolidates our confidence in the certain victory of our anti-U.S. struggle, for national salvation. It is obvious that the more the U.S. imperialists are stubborn, the more they massively dispatch troops and war means to South Vietnam and the more they resort to barbarous and machiavellian measures, the greater the hatred of the South Vietnamese people for them and the heavier and more ignominious their defeats.

Animated by a common resolve to fight and to win, our countrymen, from Quang Tri-Thua Thien to Ca Mau, from the mountains and jungles in the Western Plateaux to Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and other cities and towns, etc,... are marching forward to deal hard blows at the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, both on the political and the military fronts.

Our great Winter-Spring victories are also the victories of a perfect and fraternal co-ordination and co-operation between our compatriots in the South and in the North.

On behalf of the population, the cadres and fighters of the L.A.F. of South Vietnam, I warmly acclaim

the glorious victories won by the armed forces and people in the North in foiling the Pentagon's escalation of its war of destruction.

The Vietnamese in both zones have so far shown to the world the invincible strength of solidarity of a people who have taken the oath to defend at any cost the independence and freedom of their Fatherland.

On this occasion, we voice our sincere gratitude for the devoted and noble support and assistance extended by our friends all over the world to our just cause.

Though we still have to overcome innumerable difficulties and obstacles, the prospects of the certain victory of our resistance war are shining like the sun. There is no doubt that the Vietnamese in the South will reach the sacred goals of their struggle, namely independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, with a view to the reunification of the Fatherland.

Dear compatriots, cadres and fighters,

Under the glorious banner of the N.F.L., let all of you bravely march forward under the impulse of our victories!

I convey to you all my cordial determined-to-fight-and-to-win greetings!

South Vietnam, June 2, 1967

NGUYEN HUU THO

WINTER-SPRING OF 1966-1967

- Big victories won by the L.A.F. and people of South Vietnam.
- Unprecedented defeats sustained by the U.S. aggressors.

During last Winter-Spring, the U.S. aggressors made gigantic efforts in the hope of realizing their "two-pronged" plan.

According to still incomplete figures, from October 1966 to April 1967, the enemy launched thousands of operations, among them many large-scale ones.



Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, Deputy-Commander of the L.A.F., visiting an unit of women fighters.

They attempted to "blot out" our resistance bases, decimate our armed forces, while giving effective support to their rural "pacification" units.

However, during the same period, our armed forces and people, bringing into full play their revolutionary heroism and overcoming great difficulties and obstacles, dealt hard blows at the enemy and won unprecedentedly big victories.

— On the military plane

1. According to still incomplete data, our armed forces and people put out of action 175,000 enemies (comprising 70,000 GI's, 15,000 mercenaries from U.S. satellite countries and 90,000 puppet troops). 1,800 aircraft were shot down or destroyed, 1,785 armoured cars and 2,200 other military vehicles destroyed, 100 ships and combat launches sunk or set afire, 340 heavy artillery pieces destroyed, 200 military posts razed, 6 military sub-sectors annihilated and nearly 270 bridges blown up.

In comparison with the Winter-Spring of 1965-1966, the enemy casualties were up by 60,000 while the number of naval craft destroyed nearly quadrupled and that of armoured cars destroyed increased by more than 5 times and a half. Compared with the total enemy strength at the beginning of the Winter-Spring (September 1966) the enemy lost nearly one fourth of the U.S. and satellite troops, nearly one fifth of puppet troops, more than one fifth of the number of battalions, nearly half of the number of aircraft and nearly 70 per cent of the number of armoured cars.

2. All enemy operations, big or small, were smashed by the combined force of our regular units, regional troops and guerillas.

Everywhere, in Eastern Nam Bo as well as in the delta of Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh provinces, in the valley of Sa Thay River, in the Western Plateaux and Quang Tri province, etc, the enemy sustained heavy defeats. In the area north of Saigon, in the region baptized "iron triangle" by the U.S. High Command and war zone C, the enemy launched successive major operations but all were defeated : Cedar Falls, Attleboro, Gadsden, Tucsen, Junction City. The last operation which was the biggest and most important one in the dry season as well as in the U.S. war in South Vietnam ended in the heaviest and most complete defeat the enemy has ever sustained.

Besides, the U.S. planned to implant one U.S. division in the Mekong Delta, but it could send only one brigade.

L.A.F. gunners of Quang Tri province towards the battlefield.





A guerilla group of Cu Chi, hunters of U.S. aircraft.



Father and son aiming at the same goal.

3. We have constantly been holding the initiative in launching fierce attacks and mounting counter-attacks. On all battlefields, the L.A.F., by mounting powerful assaults, skilful ambushes and violent shelling, dealt heavy blows at the enemy, annihilating scores of U.S., satellite and puppet regular units.

The L.A.F. made deep and vigorous thrusts into a series of logistic bases: airfields, stores, sub-sectors, provincial and district towns and positions which are part of the enemy complexes of bases, annihilating many enemy troops and destroying great quantities of war means, cutting or threatening many important highways.

Wherever the U.S. aggressors came and established an "enclave", they fell at once faced up with a dense net of arrows, bullets and booby traps of the guerillas. The "destroy Yanks" belts are wearing out the U.S. troops.

Confronted everywhere with the continual attacks and counter-attacks of our armed forces and people, the U.S. and puppet troops not only could not get out of their passive strategic position but were also driven into an ever more passive position in the field of operations and combat, their forces being thinned out everywhere, and now the U.S. commanders have openly admitted that 400,000 GI's were not enough for the task. Meanwhile the deployment of their troops was upset by the L.A.F.'s attacks.

— On the rural "pacification" plane

The other prong of the pincers, the "rural pacification", to which the U.S. aggressors and their

puppets attached a particular importance in 1967, was also heavily defeated despite the big forces and means thrown in: 90 per cent of the puppet army, many U.S. and satellite units, 40,000 "pacification" agents, hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of tons of bombs, munitions and toxic chemicals, etc. According to still incomplete figures, in three months (December 1966-February 1967) the L.A.F. wiped out about 5,000 "pacification" agents and more than one thousand of them deserted. Many operations aimed at supporting the "pacification" campaign were heavily defeated. Thousands of our compatriots who had been forcibly taken to enemy-controlled areas have left the concentration camps to return to their native villages. In the Mekong delta, one of the U.S. prime targets for "pacification", our countrymen continue to live and fight dauntlessly under the banner of the N.F.L. Our liberated areas are firmly maintained and even broadened in Quang Tri and Thua Thien. The U.S. rulers in Saigon and Washington themselves have admitted this failure.

— On the political plane

The movement has acquired many new characteristics :

—The struggles are directed chiefly against the enemy "pacification" plan. The inhabitants resolutely opposed the penning of people, held on to their land and struggled against all acts of destruction of their property.

— Direct political confrontations with the U.S. and satellite troops have become more and more frequent.

— People in the towns and those in the countryside co-ordinated their efforts against the U.S. aggressors and their Saigon puppets. In the cities a broad anti-U.S. front has taken shape. Under varied forms and with various slogans, the movement has developed deeply and the position of the working class has become more and more consolidated. Desertion among the puppet army is constantly growing, which is a result of the people's political agitation work and the L.A.F.'s military victories. In Central Nam Bo alone, 2,700 desertions were recorded in February 1967. The U.S. troops' morale is no better and is characterized by numerous cases of disobedience to orders to conduct raiding operations. In many cases such as those in the U.S. bases of Dau Tieng, Lai Khe, Vung Tau, Dong Du, etc... exchanges of gunfire took place between the GI's themselves.

— *On the international plane*, the people's movement to protest against U.S. aggression and to support the Vietnamese people's struggle continues to develop, even in the U.S.A.

In short, the U.S. "two-pronged" plan has met with initial serious failures. Our enemy has sunk in deeper passivity and impasse.

On the contrary, during last Winter-Spring, the L.A.F. and people of South Vietnam emulating their compatriots in the North—our big rear—fighting valorously and launching successive attacks, have