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THE NGHE-TINH SOVIET MOVEMENT: 1931

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

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STRESSING THE HISTORICAL MEANING OF THE NGHE-TINH SOVIET MOVEMENT

/Editorial: "Manifesting the Significance of the Heroic Revolution of the Nghe-Tinh Soviet"; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 12 September 1970, pp 1,37

Forty years ago, in the fall of 1930, a great historical event in the Vietnamese revolution broke out like thunder and resounded throughout our country and the world -- the Nghe-Tinh Soviet Movement. This was the first uprising of the Vietnamese worker and farmer masses under the banner of our Party against the robber French colonialists and against feudal and reactionary forces that served as their lackies.

The Nghe-Tinh movement stands out in the struggle movement that took place in many places after our Party was born. Nghe An Province, the home of our beloved Ho Chi Minh, along with Ha Tinh Province were among the poorest provinces in colonial and semi-feudal Vietnam prior to the August Revolution. The Nghe-Tinh farmers worked under severe conditions; they were colonized, pressured, and exploited extremely cruelly. The fires of struggle of the Nghe-Tinh farmers spread rapidly before the wind of revolution. The Vinh Ben Thuy area, the largest industrial area in Central Vietnam, is in Nghe-Tinh. The patriotic and revolutionary spirit of the workers and farmers of Nghe-Tinh melded together under the brilliance of Marxist-Leninism to create a great and valiant atmosphere.

Due to subjective and objective causes, primarily because the time was not right, and because the historical and social conditions were not ripe, the movement did not achieve the objectives that had been outlined. However, with regard to the Vietnam revolution, the Nghe-Tinh Soviet was a very precious and greatly significant event.

The revolutionary high point of the 1930-31 period, the Nghe-Tinh Soviet proves that our Party, right from the very beginning, brought strength to the struggle task for the independence and freedom of the fatherland. The Nghe-Tinh Soviet not only struck a blow to colonialism and the feudal forces, but it also dealt a decisive blow to every reformist and deviate ideology with regard to the revolutionary struggle of the workers.

Revolutionary, for more than half a century -- counting from the time the French colonialists forced the yoke of slavery on our country -- never before had a national salvation movement developed such a revolutionary and mass character. The revolutionary awareness and assault atmosphere of the worker and farmer masses manifested the traditional unyielding character of our people and laid the foundation for the current Vietnam revolution. During the period from September 1930 to mid-1931, during the period of opposing white terrorism and carrying out the soviet government, just as during the period of continuing to struggle in an effort to maintain the struggle, the communists and the revolutionary masses stood up as examples of sacrifice and determination to win a better life. This was the revolutionary heroism of the soldier who dared to "assault the heavens" which Marx spoke of when he praised the heroism of the Paris commune. This revolutionary heroism defeated the acts of terrorism, assassinations, and the bribery and deceit of the French colonialists and Hue imperial court.

While it did not win a victory in the specific circumstances during the 1930-31 period, the Nghe-Tinh Soviet did create a long-term springboard and brought very precious experience to the glorious task of the entire Party and people of moving from one victory to another during the past 40 years. In practice, the Nghe-Tinh Soviet clearly evidenced the basic principles of the Vietnam revolution vis-a-vis the leadership of the Party, the vanguard of the worker class; vis-a-vis the close relationship between the anti-imperialist struggle and the anti-feudal struggle; vis-a-vis the alliance between the workers and the farmers, the classes that make up the main force of the revolution; vis-a-vis the correct coordination of the political struggle forms and the military struggle forms of the revolutionary forces; vis-a-vis the people's united front and the people's revolutionary government; and so on.

Therefore, the Nghe-Tinh Soviet was the rehearsal that paved the way for 15 years of continuous struggle that led to the victorious general uprising in the fall of 1945, the August Revolution, that marked the stepping from an old era to a new stage in the history of the Vietnamese people.

On the international front, the Nghe-Tinh Soviet was the first echo of the great Russian October Revolution in Southeast Asia. It showed the way for all the progressive people of Vietnam who were being held in darkness by the French colonial system. It stated clearly that, under the leadership of the Indochinese Communist Party, the Vietnam revolution had become an integral part of the world worker and communist movement and of the world revolutionary and national liberation movement.

Consistent with the basic contents of the time, the Nghe-Tinh Soviet was completely different from the Yen Bai insurrection that broke out at the

beginning of 1930. While the defeat of the Yen Bai insurrection destroyed the revolutionary leadership of the national bourgeoisie class as soon as it was born, the Nghe-Tinh Soviet movement, although it was soaked in blood and fire, reawakened the great aspirations for the work of the proletariat class and our people in contributing to the uplifting of the glorious banner of our Party. The revolutionary life daily reveals the truth of which President Ho spoke:

"On the day it was born, our Party organized and led an unprecedentedly large mass movement in our country -- the Nghe-Tinh Soviet movement in 1930. The worker and farmer masses of these two provinces rose up and overthrew the imperialist and feudal ruling administration, and set up a worker-farmer-soldier soviet government and declared freedom and democracy for the workers. Even though the French imperialists extinguished the movement in a sea of blood, the Nghe-Tinh soviet showed the violent spirit and revolutionary force of the Vietnam worker. Although the movement was defeated, it forged the forces for the August Revolution which would come later." 1

This year, following up the events celebrating the 40th year of our Party and the 25th year of our regime, and commemorating the 40th year after the Nghe-Tinh Soviet movement, we can more clearly see the great developments of the Vietnam revolution as it follows the glorious road under the leadership of the Party. We clearly understand that "There could not have been victory in the August Revolution if previously there had not been the 1930-31 movement, the 1936-39 movement, the 1940-45 movement, and so on.

"... speaking directly, if there had not been the earth-shaking class struggle in 1930-31 in which the workers and farmers burst out with their untiring revolutionary force, there could not have been the high tide during the years from 1936 to 1939." 2

Today, continuing on that road, we are, on one hand insisting on and stepping up the struggle of the entire people against America for national salvation and, on the other hand, making every effort to build socialism in North Vietnam. The tradition of the Nghe-Tinh Soviet encourages us daily and hourly to increase our offensive strength. Making scientific use of the great experiences of the Nghe-Tinh Soviet, we are determined to struggle to complete every political task which the fatherland and the revolution outlines. Actively manifesting the revolutionary heroic significance of the Nghe-Tinh Soviet, the resistance against America for national salvation is determined to win, and the building of socialism will surely be completed.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Ho Chi Minh -- 30 Years of Activities by the Party (1960).
2. Le Duan -- Under the Glorious Banner of the Party, for Independence, Freedom, for Socialism, and Advancing to Win New Victories (1970).