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QUAN DOI NHAN DAN REVIEWS U.S. DEFEATS

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[5 August QUAN DOI NHAN DAN article: "The Various Phases of the U.S. Defeats"]

[Text] Beating one's own head and claiming compensation.

In the early days of August 1964, the U.S. imperialists staged the "beating one's own head and claiming compensation" farce in the Gulf of Tonkin, then resorted to piratic acts. From noon to the evening of 5 August 1964, their aircraft struck the Ben Thuy, Hon Gai and Lach Truong ports and so forth. On that day, our armed forces and people gave the enemy an appropriate counterblow. The New York TIMES complained that the U.S. Air Force had sustained rather serious losses and damages from communist antiaircraft. But the U.S. warlike ringleaders continued to believe that striking North Vietnam was the best way to retrieve their losing posture in the south. According to AFP, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Lemay threatened:

"North Vietnam must be careful, or it will be bombed back into the stone age. Under the rain of U.S. bombs North Vietnam cannot survive for more than a few weeks." [words indistinct] White House and Pentagon personalities estimated that some light blows would suffice to make North Vietnam regret its action, according to AFP. They were afraid of one thing only: Protests from the majority of public opinion. That is why they loudly sang the refrain about North Vietnam aggression.

Retaliation

Using the attack on the Pleiku airfield as an excuse, on 7 February 1965 Johnson cried loudly for revenge. U.S. planes bombed the Dong Hoi municipality, but four of them were downed. On 8 February 1965 the Americans, accompanied by puppet planes, attacked Dong Hoi, Con Co, and [name indistinct], but nine enemy planes were downed. On 11 February 1965 the Americans widened the area of attack from Vinh Linh to Nghe An, losing nine planes with one pilot captured.

Then, the Johnson clique temporarily discontinued their military attacks to engage in a war of words, threatening: "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." But our people in both zones shouted: "We are determined to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors." Northerners held high the slogan, "The south calls, the north answers immediately." Southerners warned the Americans, "If you attack North Vietnam once, we will punish you 5 or 10 times in South Vietnam." From 2 March 1965 onward, the Americans escalated the war by continually attacking North Vietnam. On that day, Quang Binh won a glorious victory, downing 11 U.S. planes.

Escalation

In defining "escalation," U.S. military theoreticians called it a continuation of strategy, a gradual threat, using military forces as a warning to force the enemy to retreat, or the only means for achieving victory. But when the Americans escalated the war to the Gianh River on 2 March 1965 their Thunderchiefs were downed. When U.S. escalation reached Nghe An on 15 March (? Vinh Chau) people using rifles downed A-4's. When the U.S. air war was extended to the 20th parallel on 26 March 1965, Bach Long Vi downed U.S. Phantoms. Less than 1 month after the Americans escalated the war to the north, their ambassador's residence in Saigon was strongly attacked by liberation troops on 30 March 1965.

The Americans attacked Thanh Hoa on 2, 3, and 4, April 1965, losing (?47) planes. There, for the first time U.S. planes met Vietnamese planes: on 3 April two planes of the U.S. Navy were downed. The following day, 4 April, two U.S. Thunderchiefs were (? destroyed). In its first battle, the Vietnamese Air Force won gloriously.

In May 1965, the Americans halted the attacks to let "North Vietnam reflect." Without reflecting for even 1 second each Vietnamese citizen told the Americans: "The higher you escalate, the more painfully you will fall." In June, the Americans attacked above the 21st parallel. In July, the Americans attacked areas at the 22d parallel. On 24 July 1965, Vietnamese missiles appeared, downing a U.S. Phantom whose aggressor pilot was subsequently captured. In August, the Americans expanded the war to almost all localities in the north. Also that month Johnson urgently decided to introduce more U.S. troops into South Vietnam to remedy their highly endangered situation.

The more defeated, the higher they had to escalate the war.

By the end of 1966, the north has downed 846 U.S. aircraft, including the 13 downed in 1964.

In South Vietnam, the Americans had sent in nearly 200,000 U.S. expeditionary troops almost all of whose seasoned units had received initial deterrent blows from the PLAF in Van Tuong, Pleiku, Bau Bang and Dakout. But Johnson deeply embarked on his new plan. On Christmas eve of 1965, he proclaimed a cessation of bombings in an attempt to knock at the door of peace. He sent Humphrey, Goldberg, Harriman, and Bundy abroad to explain to world public opinion U.S. good will to gain sympathy for its Vietnam problem. Johnson wanted many other countries to take a role alongside the United States in South Vietnam. But, at last, Johnson's politicians [words indistinct]. The U.S. press complained that France remained an unpleasant ally that kept demanding that the United States permanently stop bombing North Vietnam and withdraw U.S. troops from South Vietnam; that neither Britain, a very tender ally, nor any other U.S. ally in Europe wanted to raise a finger to help the United States in Vietnam and that meanwhile, U.S. allies in Asia placed their own interests above everything else.

"After each failure, the United States engages in a new adventure," remarked the New York TIMES on 16 April 1966. That time, the adventure had begun on 31 January 1966 when nine U.S. aircraft were downed in Vinh Linh, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, and Nghe An. Three days afterwards, on 3 February 1966, fighting skillfully, Nghe An wiped out a group of three U.S. aircraft while the Vietnamese People's Air Force downed two A-6A aircraft over Hoa Binh.

Within the U.S. ruling clique, such men as McNamara realized that "U.S. bombs dropped on North Vietnam have heightened the Vietnamese's spirit." But the fanatics still yelled: "North Vietnam must be completely destroyed." As of 31 January 1966, U.S. aircraft bombarded the industrial centers in Hon Gay, Cam Pha, and Viet Tri, our dikes, dams, and irrigation structures.

B-52's bombed western Quang Binh. On 29 June 1966, Johnson seriously escalated by sending U.S. aircraft to strike the suburbs of Hanoi and Haiphong.

The warlike clique attentively took our heart beat, expecting an indication of our embarrassment; but, on the contrary, it was they who were embarrassed. Answering Uncle Ho's "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" appeal, our entire armed forces and people dealt the enemy violent blows. In July 1966, the north downed 123 U.S. aircraft. The U.S. press again lamented: "The North Vietnamese antiaircraft fire ~~not~~ is terribly effectively," said NEWSWEEK; "the air war is really expensive for the United States," wrote AP; "the U.S. pilots flying missions to North Vietnam are in a dangerous situation," said UPI, and Johnson also sat precariously on his war ladder.

Following the failures of 1966, in 1967 Johnson recklessly took a new adventurous step. In February 1967, Johnson announced three new measures: using long-range heavy guns installed south of the demilitarized zone to fire at the north, using artillery pieces on the warships of the 7th Fleet to strike the coastal areas, and laying mines in rivers, canals, estuaries, and coastal waters. A few months afterwards, Johnson climbed to the top of his war ladder. As of 29 April 1967, U.S. aircraft continuously struck fiercely at heavily populated areas in Hanoi and Haiphong. But the result was the Johnson and his advisors were surprised by the North Vietnamese's tenacity," wrote UPI on 9 May 1967. "Clearly, the bombing of North Vietnam has failed to prevent the Viet Cong's activities in South Vietnam; these activities have nonetheless rapidly increased since the bombing began," said the New York TIMES on 2 November 1967. "The United States is paying a terribly high price while receiving nothing. The war has been deadlocked," USIS reported on 11 July 1967.

The higher they escalated the war, the heavier the defeats they sustained

The Americans dropped almost 1 million tons of bombs to destroy the northern part of our country. This is half again as much as the total quantity of bombs dropped by them during 3 years of the Korean war--635,000 tons--almost twice the total quantity of bombs dropped by them and their allies on the Pacific areas during World War II--502,785 tons--or six times the total quantity of bombs dropped by them on Japan--160,000 tons. In early July 1967, an investigation committee of Japanese scientists asserted: We have experienced the U.S. imperialists' atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We can assert that the destruction of Ho Xa, Vinh Linh, is equal to that of Hiroshima or Nagasaki."

Yet the Americans were defeated. McNamara himself admitted that North Vietnamese industry continued to develop, aid from socialist countries continued to flow in, the North Vietnamese antiaircraft network continued to be strengthened and became increasingly more efficient, the North Vietnamese economy had not collapsed, and the U.S. Air Force's losses were high, according to AFP on 2 February 1968.

In the meantime, the southern revolution stepped into the phase of general offensive and uprisings. As a result, the Americans had to adopt a defensive strategy in South Vietnam and deescalate the war in North Vietnam by ordering a limited bombing on 31 March 1968. At the Paris conference, opened on 13 May 1968, the Americans stubbornly refused to unconditionally end all bombardments against North Vietnam. But "the load is too heavy. It must be thrown away," according to a U.S. newspaper on 20 July 1968. "The U.S. Air Force throughout the world lacks everything," said U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT on 16 September 1968. That is why the Americans on 1 November 1968 the Americans had to agree to unconditionally end the bombardments against the entire DRV territory.

Up to that day, North Vietnam had downed 3,243 U.S. planes of 47 different types, produced by 17 firms [words indistinct]--including six B-52's and several types of the most modern U.S. planes such as F-4C, F-105B, F-105E, F-111A, A-6A, and A-7. Up to that day, 143 U.S. warships and ranger ships had been sunk or damaged, including large ships such as the New Jersey, Canberra, and (?Saint Paul) and destroyers such as the Maddox, (?Chandler), and so forth.

The Americans are still stubborn

Previously, Nixon criticized Johnson for everything, paving the way for his being elected President. He stated: "Eight years ago we had a big strategic ammunition depot, but Johnson has used it in the Vietnam war, exhausting it seriously. Therefore, the capabilities of coping with future important crises have decreased," according to REUTERS on 24 October 1968

Now Nixon (?has changed) his tune. He still refuses to relinquish the U.S. aggressive scheme. He continues pouring money and weapons into South Vietnam, where he will only court heavier setbacks than did Johnson.

While the Americans fail to draw any lesson from their defeat, the Vietnamese people have had many experiences in defeating the enemy, aware of his stubbornness. The Americans are very stubborn, but our people have succeeded in forcing them to unconditionally end the bombing of North Vietnam. Our people will certainly be able to compel the Americans to completely withdraw U.S. and satellite forces from South Vietnam without imposing any condition on the Vietnamese people. Such is the path of defeat the Americans have followed and will have to follow.