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NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT AGAINST THE WAR OF AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM

[Article; Hanoi, Tuyen Huan, Vietnamese, No 12, December 1969, pp 38-417

Blindly pursuing Johnson's path, Nixon still stubbornly prolongs the war of aggression in Vietnam. The hopeless war with its heavy defeats is having a more and more serious effect on the life of all strata of American people and is pushing the United States into severe economic, political, social, etc., difficulties. Faced with this disaster, millions of Americans from all strata throughout the United States and elsewhere in the world have actively taken part in the "fall offensive" against Nixon's policy of prolonging the war. Two waves of struggle on 15 October and 13-15 November 1969, rocked the United States, marking a new development in the American people's movement against the war of aggression in Vietnam. A number of the salient features follow.

1- Unprecedentedly Widespread Struggle

The highest waves of struggle in previous years took place in 120 cities and were responded to by hundreds of thousands of people. Yet this wave of struggle also took place in 1,200 towns and cities, both large and small, with millions of people taking part. Acts of protest and demonstrations against the war broke out from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast and from northern industrial cities to southern agricultural states. Some towns with populations of 150,000 people were able to amass 50,000 people for the demonstrations. The 15 November demonstrations and marches against death, the largest in the history of Washington the capital, amassed more than 300,000 people from around the United States.

There were various participants, age groups, social stratas, and political persuasions in this struggle. Youth and students were the most numerous forces taking part in the struggle. Students from virtually all of the colleges were involved in demonstrations and participated in the antiwar activities. Many famous intellectuals voiced strong support and immediately took part in the "moratorium." The council of professors from many colleges adopted the resolution demanding that Nixon end the Vietnam war. A number of U.S.

scientists who were awarded the 1969 Nobel prize attended the struggles. In particular was medical professor Luria who postponed acceptance of the Nobel prize in order to take part in the 15 October demonstration. Seventy-four well-known teachers and scientists signed the statement carried in the New York Times which called on U.S. public opinion to oppose Nixon's policy of prolonging the war. The wave of struggle was also responded to and supported by a number of labor union organizations composed of millions of workers which had heretofore been dominated by the lackey "gold labor union" clique of the U.S. monopolistic capitalists. These were, for example, such organizations as the American Federation of Labor (with 5 million members), the Chemical Union, the Teamsters Union, and the Garment Workers Union. Many servicemen who had either been discharged or were still on active duty, including some who had been sent to South Vietnam, also took part in the anti-war activities and formed separate groups in the demonstrations. Many servicemen representatives from the bases of Pho Hut, Pho Dich, etc., returned to attend the demonstrations in Washington and San Francisco. The struggle also attracted American housewives who never before had taken part in political activities. U.S. newspapers carried the story about the wife of a Chicago bank director who used to go only to church and cared nothing about politics. But this time she, too, became involved in the demonstration and signed her name to the resolution demanding that Nixon quickly pull out of the criminal war in Vietnam. There were also many religious activists and businessmen present in the ranks of the antiwar demonstrations. The assembly representing 40,000 out of the 60,000 Catholic priests in the United States recommended that the bishops in the dioceses support the "Vietnam moratorium" and participate in all of the public antiwar activities scheduled and organized in the local areas. Also taking part in this wave of struggle were many political activists, including a number of congressmen, state governors, mayors, and so on. Sixty-four congressmen from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives issued statements supporting the "Vietnam moratorium." Twenty-one senators appealed to the citizens of Washington to provide food and shelter for the people coming from the various states to demonstrate. Many well-known senators in U.S. public opinion from both the Republican and Democratic Parties, such as McGovern, Fulbright, McCarthy, E. Kennedy, Goodell, etc., voiced their protest of Nixon's policy of prolonging the war. A number of state governors and mayors also took part in the "moratorium." Lindsay, mayor of New York City, one of the largest industrial cities in the United States, had the city fly the flag at half-staff and take the day off on 15 October to respond to the struggle. Many Americans abroad also organized and took part in demonstrations in front of U.S. embassies, demanding that Nixon withdraw all troops and end the war. Even in South Vietnam, a number of Americans organized demonstrations in front of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon to respond to the wave of struggle. A number of U.S. servicemen in South Vietnam wore mourning bands and went on hunger strikes to show their antiwar feelings.

The two waves of struggle in October and November of the American people's movement against the war of aggression in Vietnam was nationwide and all-people in character. And one could say that, through these two waves of

struggle, a broad front against the war of aggression in Vietnam composed of all strata of American people was formed in actuality. Moreover, the two waves of struggle in October and November were also international in character. On 15 October and especially on 15 November, people from many countries throughout the world organized rallies, demonstrations, and other struggle activities to protest with the American people the war of aggression in Vietnam and to demand that the Nixon administration withdraw all U.S. troops.

2- High Struggle Slogans; Rich Forms of Struggle

Millions of Americans repeatedly shouted the slogan "end the war immediately, withdraw immediately, and withdraw all U.S. troops from South Vietnam" during the two waves of struggle. This is the highest antiwar slogan ever. It represents the urgent hope of the American people who want a quick end to the war of aggression in Vietnam. This slogan eloquently proves that Nixon's piecemeal withdrawal maneuvers, his "Vietnamization" of the war schemes, his so-called "secret plan" for gradually withdrawing from the Vietnam war, etc., are no longer deceiving the American people. The American people who are against the war have waged the struggle with this slogan because they realize that the true nature of this Nixon scheme is to prolong the war of aggression, to prolong the troop withdrawal, and to refuse to totally withdraw. It could be said that this constitutes a great change in the realization of the American people with regard to the Vietnam war in general and the correct explanation for the war in particular.

A number of slogans demanding a decent livelihood and democratic rights, such as opposition to inflation, racial discrimination, and suppression, and demanding the release of those who have been held because they are against the war in Vietnam, etc., have also been quoted and are closely connected with the demand for an early end to the war in Vietnam.

The broad wave of struggle, unprecedented in the history of the United States with the highest antiwar slogans ever, was conducted with many very rich forms such as vigils, candlelight parades, bell ringings, flying flags at half-staff, wearing mourning bands, organizing funeral processions, dropping black balloons, leaving chairs empty in rallies to symbolize the number of U.S. soldiers who have died in Vietnam, turning over draft cards, and so on. The U.S. press listed more than 30 different forms of struggle.

The forms of struggle were all devoted to evoking feelings about the U.S. casualties in Vietnam so that this would lead to demands for an immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from South Vietnam. The 15 November march against death from the states throughout the United States to Washington aroused many feelings in particular. The names of tens of thousands of U.S. servicemen who had died in the Vietnam war were read for hours and hours in front of the White House. And coffins filled with the lists of names of U.S. soldiers who had died in Vietnam were carried to and placed in front of the Capitol. The wave of struggle also knew how to coordinate goals with scope and large concentrated demonstrations in the capital of Washington and the large cities with the broad activities throughout the local areas. In addition to collective forms of struggle, youth and students in many places carried out individual campaigns. They went to each propaganda organ, explained, and appealed

to everyone to oppose the war for the sake of the United States and the interests of the U.S. citizen himself. Each day the struggle penetrates deeper into American homes, families, and hearts.

In addition to the millions of people who took part in the demonstrations and rallies on "moratorium" day, there were millions of others who took the day off. Government employees did not go to their offices, workers were absent from factories, colleges and high school students were absent from school, housewives left their housework, and so on. The U.S. press acknowledged the widespread response by numerous Americans and estimated that millions of people took part in various forms of struggle.

3- The Struggle Continues

Concerned over the rapid development of the antiwar movement, the Nixon administration has come up with many schemes and maneuvers to cope with it. Nixon has looked for ways to deceive and appease public opinion by dismissing the director of the draft, postponing draft calls during November and December 1969, ballyhooing the "good will for peace" in withdrawing 60,000 troops from South Vietnam, and so on. The propaganda machinery of the White House reports that "Nixon has a secret plan for ending the war," "the antiwar movement is not in contradiction to the President in terms of goals, but is only at variance in terms of methods and timing," and so on. The Nixon administration is also looking for ways to mislead public opinion, such as organizing a day of "nationwide prayer for U.S. prisoners in North Vietnam." (!) It is looking for ways to arcuse the national spirit of the American people by rigging up the so-called "committee of national unity in support of Nixon" and other patchwork organizations to destroy the movement and create the false impression that "the silent majority supports the President." By simultaneously appeasing and misleading, the Nixon administration criticizes, intimidates, and suppresses the movement. Nixon blatantly says that the American people's antiwar movement will have no effect whatsoever on his war policy, that diplomatic policy cannot be decided in the streets, and so on. And Agnew, the U.S. Vice President, insults and slanders the demonstrators, calling them "lower class," and congressmen who support the movement, calling them "people who pick up votes from both sides." The U.S. press condemned Nixon for being "impolite and nonpolitical" and Agnew for being "uncouth." As a pretext for suppression, the White House reported that tens of thousands of policemen and paratroopers would be put on alert and mobilized in Washington during the 15 November demonstration in an attempt to intimidate the struggling masses. The U.S. Justice Department, in an attempt to destroy the plan for the demonstration, issued an order forbidding demonstrators from marching on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House.

But all of the Nixon administration's plans have not only failed to stop the struggle movement. On the contrary, like adding fuel to the fire, the movement is expanding even more vigorously and steadily. The two waves of struggle in October and November were a splendid success. And the November struggle was even better than the one in October, even though the Nixon administration coped with it more feverishly. The December 1969 struggle plan will

be carried out on 12, 13, and 24 December throughout the United States. And if the Nixon administration remains stubborn and refuses to end the war of aggression in Vietnam, it "will have to listen to the footsteps of the marchers pounding on the streets of the United States until the war is ended." (Statement by former Senator Morse at the 15 November 1969 demonstration in San Francisco).

The American people's movement against the war of aggression in Vietnam constitutes extremely great and valuable support to the Vietnamese people's anti-U.S. fight for national salvation. Each new development in the movement further isolates and divides the U.S. government politically and further restricts the ability of the Nixon administration to mobilize the economic and military potential of the United States in the war of aggression in Vietnam. However, as one antiwar American stated, "Our enemy is one. Our fight is one. But the antiwar movement alone cannot force the U.S. government to end the Vietnam war. To totally defeat the U.S. government's war of aggression in Vietnam, the Vietnamese people's unparalleled courageous struggle is first and foremost." For this reason, closely coordinating with the American people's struggle, the Vietnamese people are determined to smash Nixon's scheme to prolong the war of aggression, to step up the fight against the United States for national salvation, and to advance toward complete victory.

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