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ACHIEVEMENTS OF FOURTH MILITARY ZONE PRAISED

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0415 GMT 28 Oct 68 S

[28 October ~~QUAN DOI NHAN DAN~~ commentary: "The fourth military zone is enduring, vigilant, and skillful in its fights"]

[Text] The stalwart fourth military zone has just scored another glorious exploit. On 26 October 1968, Vinh Linh and Con Co set afire and damaged two U.S. battleships, including the big New Jersey while it was committing a crime. On the same day, coordinating with Vinh Linh and Con Co. the Ha Tinh armed forces and people downed a U.S. aircraft. On 23 and 24 October 1968, Vinh Linh and Quang Binh downed three U.S. aircraft. Hail to the armed forces and people of the fourth military zone for their outstanding feats of arms and appropriate punitive blows at the bullheaded U.S. aggressors for their barbarous war crimes!

Through many fierce challenges, the fourth military zone has been worthy of the title of steel fortress on the frontline of the socialist north. Hail to the Vinh Linh armed forces and people for their glorious exploits! They once shot down a U.S. B-52. Now, they are the first to damage the big battleship New Jersey. The glorious exploits on 23, 24, and 26 October 1968 represent the "determined-to-fight-and-win" spirit, the remarkable vigilance, the strong, constant, and urgent fighting pride, and the close fighting coordination of the armed forces of the fourth military zone.

Through many skillful attacks and repeated victories, the armed forces and people of the fourth military zone have addressed a stern answer to the stubborn Johnson clique's demand for "reciprocity." As long as the U.S. aggressors still commit crimes, they will have to die in this soil, glowing with the fire of hatred and victories. Fully realizing their important position and glorious mission in the anti-U.S., national salvation undertaking, the armed forces and people of the fourth military zone have braved all hardships and sacrifices, heightened their endurance, fought with matchless heroism, insured through communication and transportation, and have wholeheartedly fulfilled their mission for the sake of their kith-and-kin southerners.

Inheriting the blood of heroic soviet Nghe-Tinh and the glorious traditions of unsubmitive Tri-Thien, the armed forces and people of the fourth military zone have set a splendid example of revolutionary heroism. The brilliant exploits of the armed forces and people of the fourth military zone will remain forever in the history book of our country. All our people are proud of the struggle of the fourth military zone. All our northern people and armed forces warmly encourage and assist the extremely heroic struggle of the fourth military zone.

The U.S. aggressors have sustained heavy setbacks in both parts of our country. They have experienced many bitter defeats on land as well as in the air. At present, they have met with enormous difficulties in the military, political, and diplomatic fields. But they still remain very stubborn, even though they have been beaten to death.

All our people must undergo many more fierce challenges before achieving final victory. Only when all our people achieve genuine independence and freedom can our country enjoy true peace. Only when the south is liberated can the north know genuine peace.

In the whole process of the anti-U.S., national salvation struggle, both southerners and northerners will stand beside each other till final victory. Under all circumstances, the north resolutely fulfills its mission of the great rear vis-a-vis the great front.

Fully realizing the stubborn, deceitful nature of the enemy, the armed forces and people of the fourth military zone will stand firmly on the frontline of the socialist north. At the same time, because they belong to the direct rear of the heroic great front, they will emulate to hit the enemy more fiercely and more skillfully, to insure thorough communication and transportation, to satisfactorily carry out the people's air defense, to promote production, and to resolutely fulfill their glorious mission now when our people's anti-U.S., national salvation struggle has reached its decisive phase.

Striving to develop their existing achievements, let Vinh Linh, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, and Nghe An take advantage of the victorious situation to advance to score even more glorious victories and to completely smash the U.S. aggressors.

#### SHELLING OF BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY RECALLED

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0606 GMT 30 Oct 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--For nearly a month now, the U.S. aggressors have ordered the battleship New Jersey to bombard heavily populated coastal areas north of the demilitarized zone. This is one of the measures taken by the United States to step up its war of destruction against the DRV in a bid to make up for its bitter defeats in both zones of Vietnam.

A dam in village C was hit by 20 cannon shells from this biggest war vessel of the U.S. 7th Fleet. The supply and marketing cooperative shop in hamlet T was hit and completely destroyed by 12 shells. The ship's gunfire struck a production team while the farmers were preparing fertilizer for the coming winter-spring cultivation. A woman farmer was killed.

All these crimes of the United States have highly angered every officer and crewman of battery X in Vinh Linh area. These men also engraved the enemy's crimes on their gun barrels. "Let the aggressors pay for their bloody debts," was the gunners' watchword.

On 26 October, when the gun-bristling battleship loomed like a moving island on the high sea, the shore batteries were ready. One hour went by, however, and the ship was still roaming at a good distance. The United States sent spotter planes over the coast. While two L-19's circled overhead, an RF-100 flew very low, trying to detect the artillery site of the people's army. But the gunners did not let themselves be taken in.

At 1530, when the sea turned light blue, the battleship drew nearer to the coast. Then the big guns on the ship drew immediate counterfire as they started shelling.

Thus, an unequal artillery duel began. In defiance of the spotter planes overhead, the artillerymen kept blazing away at the big ship. But the first rounds only sent up columns of water near it. The next barrages hit the mark. Through his binoculars, the company leader could see many explosions on the ship's deck.