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L.P.L.A.'S RESOUNDING VICTORIES IN NOVEMBER.

HANOI VNA DECEMBER 12, 1968 AS CURTAIN-RAISER FOR THE 1968-69 DRY SEASON THE LAOTIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR ARMED FORCES LAST MONTH RECORDED VERY SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES OVER THE U.S. AND THEIR VIENTIANE PUPPETS, ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY KHAOSAN PATHET LAO.

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THE REPORT SAID:

IT WAS IN NOVEMBER THAT THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR STOOGES PUSHED THE "SPECIAL WAR" IN LAOS TO A HIGHER DEGREE OF FIERCENESS. ALONG WITH NIBBLING ATTACKS AGAINST THE LIBERATED ZONE IN SAM NEUA, VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG PROVINCES AND THE SMUGGLING OF SPIES AND COMMANDOS INTO THE FREE ZONE FOR SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES, THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS RAPIDLY STEPPED UP BOMBING RAIDS ON THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE LIBERATED ZONE. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY DATA, U.S. AIRCRAFT INCLUDING B-52 STRATEGIC BOMBERS MADE SOME 15,000 RPT 15,000 SORTIES DURING WHICH NEARLY 40,000 RPT 40,000 DEMOLITION BOMBS AND ABOUT 100,000 RPT 100,000 ANTI-PERSONNEL AND TARM BOMBS AND ROCKETS WERE DUMPED ON THE FREE ZONE, ESPECIALLY IN CENTRAL AND LOWER LAOS WHERE THE DAILY AVERAGE VARIED BETWEEN 400 RPT 400 AND 500 RPT 500, SOMETIMES EVEN 600 RPT 600 PM SORTIES.

AS A RESULT, HUNDREDS OF CIVILIANS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED. MANY BUDDHIST PRIESTS LOST THEIR LIVES JUST WHILE MAKING OFFERINGS TO BUDDHA. MOST TYPICAL WERE THE RAIDS ON NA LONG, HA MUNE AND NA PHAI HAMLETS IN XIENG KHOANG PROVINCE IN THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 24 WHICH TOOK A TOLL OF 137 RPT 137 CIVILIANS MOSTLY OLD PEOPLE, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THE ENEMY EVEN WENT SO FAR AS SPRAYING NOXIOUS CHEMICALS ON AREAS UNDER THEIR TEMPORARY CONTROL AND REGIONS BORDERING THE LIBERATED ZONE EAST OF VIENTIANE, CAUSING THE SERIOUS INTOXICATION OF A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

FEELING WITH HATRED, THE LAOTIAN PATRIOTIC ARMED FORCES STRUCK THE ENEMY VERY HARD. ACCORDING TO STILL INCOMPLETE STATISTICS, IN 92 RPT 92 ENGAGEMENTS THEY PUT OUT OF ACTION 1,059 RPT 1,059 ENEMY TROOPS ON THE GROUND 25 RPT 25 AIRCRAFT AND DAMAGED DOZENS OF OTHERS, CAPTURED OR WRECKED 9 RPT 9 MILITARY VEHICLES, SANK 4 RPT 4 MOTOR LAUNCHES, AND SAIZED LARGE QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION INCLUDING SCORES OF MACHINE GUNS, MORTARS, AND RECOILLESS GUNS.

A NUMBER OF AMLETS WERE FREED FROM THE ENEMY'S GRIP.

A STRIKING FEATURE OF THE FIGHT IN NOVEMBER WAS THE CLOSE CO-ORDINATION OF THE REGULAR, REGIONAL, GUERILLA AND MILITIA FORCES.

FIGHTING ENEMY COMMANDOS IN ATTOPEU, SARAVANE, SAVANNAKHET, AND TAVEN OC PROVINCES THE LIPPLAA ADDITIONAL FORCES FROM NOVEMBER 3 TO 16 KNOCKED DOWN AS MANY AS 18 RPT 18 HELICOPTERS AND KILLED OR WOUNDED SEVERAL HUNDRED ENEMY AMONG THEM MANY AMERICAN AGGRESSORS. ON NOVEMBER 27, THE MAIN FORCES AND GUERILLAS IN TAVEN OC PROVINCE ASSAULTED THE COMMAND POST OF THE PUPPET 33RD BATTALION AND ANOTHER POSITION IN THA TENG AREA. LATER, THEY BROKE OFF SEVERAL COUNTER-ATTACKS, AND AMBUSHED A CONVOY OF ENEMY REINFORCEMENTS. ALL TOLD, THE PATRIOTS KILLED OR TOOK PRISONER 106 RPT 106 ENEMY, AND CAPTURED OR DESTROYED 9 RPT 9 MILITARY VEHICLES AND A GREAT AMOUNT OF OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

THE PATRIOTIC FORCES IN UPPER LAOS REPELLED A SERIES OF NIBBLING ATTACKS ON HUA MUONG DISTRICT AND AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF FA THI, WIPING OUT 155 RPT 155 ENEMY TROOPS, AND SHATTERED ONE PLANE.

IN TWO SUCCESSFUL AMBUSHES, THE PATRIOTIC ARMED FORCES IN UDOMASAY PROVINCE SANK OR DAMAGED 4 RPT 4 MOTOR LAUNCHES OF THE ENEMY AND INFLECTED ON HIM 32 RPT 32 CASUALTIES.

ALSO IN NOVEMBER, ANOTHER BANDIT DEN IN LUANG PRABANG WAS DESTROYED, RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF 38 RPT 38 U.S. FOSTERED BANDITS AND THE CAPTURE BY THE PATRIOTS OF 30 RPT 30 FIREARMS.

SUPER FIRE WAS BROUGHT INTO FULL PLAY IN XIENG KHOANG PROVINCE, WHICH COST THE ENEMY DOZENS OF TROOPS. THE ARMED FORCES IN THE PROVINCE ALSO BROUGHT DOWN 4 RPT 4 U.S. JET PLANES./.

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