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GREAT VICTORIES AND BRILLIANT EXPLOITS REPORTED

Editorial: "Tremendous Victories, Glorious Military Achievements"; Hanoi, Bao Tan Viet Hoa, Chinese, 24 December 1968, p 1]

News of victories are reported constantly; songs of triumph are heard everywhere. Just when the soldiers and civilians of the North and the South are joyfully welcoming the three big festivals and cheering the tremendous and complete victories of the anti-US patriotic war, the bulletin published by the South Vietnamese People's Liberation Armed Forces Command Post on the great combat achievements of the South in the past year is like the spring breeze permeating the entire land, encouraging the people of the nation, enhancing their morale, and enabling them to win greater victories in the new year of the anti-US patriotic struggle. We wish to express our admiration and respect to the heroic soldiers and civilians of the South, including the Overseas Chinese of the South, for their great achievements.

In the past year, in their world shaking total attack and energetic struggle, the soldiers and civilians of the South killed, injured, and captured 630,000 enemies, including 230,000 American and satellite troops; shot down over 6,000 enemy planes; destroyed 1,100 artilleries, over 700 gasoline tanks and munitions dumps, and over 13,500 military vehicles, including 7,000 tanks and armored vehicles; and sank and damaged 1,000 enemy boats. Half of the American, puppet, and satellite troops were wiped out. It was a victory of a tremendous significance and a heavy blow to US imperialism and its running dogs.

The great victory of the soldiers and civilians of the South was the victory of the accurate resistance line of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front, of the advanced patriotism and revolutionary heroism of the soldiers and civilians of the South, of the

iron will of the people of the entire country to overcome the invading US bandit, and of the peace loving people of the whole world.

The great victories of the soldiers and civilians of the South enhanced the morale of the oppressed nations and peoples of the world and diminished the prestige of US imperialism and all reactionaries. The fighting practice of the Vietnamese people has irrefutably proved that, today, even if a nation does not possess much territory or a big population, as long as it courageously stands up and fights for independence and freedom, follows the correct line, and battles firmly and expertly, then, such a nation will defeat the invader, including US imperialism.

The total attack and courageous struggle of the soldiers and civilians of the South in the past year and the great victories won by them are a clear indication of the leaping development of the revolution of the South. They indicate that the incomparable power of the creative military science and art in the Vietnamese national liberation war is the result of the unprecedented height in the development of the people's warfare. The 14,000,000 people of the South are firmly responding to Chairman Ho's appeal that "there is nothing more valuable than independence and freedom" and "everything must be devoted to the defeat of the invading US bandit," turning such appeals into a tremendous material force, and making their total attack and courageous struggle daily ever more powerful. They will finally expel the US invader from the soil of Vietnam, overthrow the puppet regime, recapture the political power for the people, and realize history's mission of liberating the South, defending the North, and peacefully reunifying Vietnam.

The one year of total attack and courageous struggle launched by the soldiers and civilians of the South was not an ordinary year! It was a year during which the people of the entire nation, with an iron determination to fight and defeat the invading American bandit, waged a courageous and outstanding war and won brilliant victories. It was a year of a great significance in the history of the Vietnamese people in their resistance of invaders.

We believe that, in the new year, the heroic people of the South will advance on the momentum of victory, respond to the appeal of Chairman Ho and the announcement of the National Liberation Front, continue with their attacks and courageous struggles, and win greater and more brilliant victories for the thorough defeat of the US aggressor and its running dogs.

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