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SOUTH VIETNAM

With such a background, the U.S. and puppet military operation in Batangan can by no means avoid being ruled by the law of inevitable defeat, because its substance is identical to that of previous military operations. This operation is but a product of a defensive, passive position and is characterized by search and police activities and by attempts to check the liberation troops' attacks right in the U.S. and puppet defense lines. Absolutely nothing can be called initiative or strong offensive ability, as the Americans and puppets said about this operation. The Americans and puppets can entertain absolutely no hope of victory. Their herding of people into a concentration area for sorting them out and investigating them is only aimed at terrorizing them. This cannot subdue the people in Batangan.

Conversely, the U.S. and puppet cruel acts will only deepen our people's hatred for them and make our people more determined to counter them. At the outset, the people in Batangan may have been temporarily coerced, but when they have favorable conditions, they will arise to fiercely oppose the U.S.-puppets as they did in Dien Ban and Buon Ho. The U.S. and puppets' hope of isolating and annihilating the PLAF in Batangan by sending warships out on constant patrol along the coastal areas and by using planes and artillery to continuously and violently bomb and shell is but an illusion.

The armed forces and people in Batangan as well as our armed forces and people throughout the south in general, who are very experienced in fighting and defeating the enemy and who are, moreover, in a strong and victorious position and are firmly standing on a set battlefield to their great advantage, will certainly succeed in creating opportunities to deal the Americans and puppets terrific blows, thus frustrating all their wicked plots.

A striking truth is that while the U.S. commanding clique was boastfully publicizing this military operation, initial reports by Western news agencies, even though still far from the facts, have conversely demonstrated that the U.S. troops are mediocre and are sustaining initial defeats. For instance, according to AP on 14 January, the Americans and puppets entered Batangan very slowly. In the past 6 days, [words indistinct] tall man can stand in it without being seen. Because the U.S. Marines encountered such difficulties and dangers, according to the same news agency, they had to carry [words indistinct] in their boots in order to guard against mines which might destroy their legs.

Having long fought the U.S. Marines and the U.S. troops in general, our combatants are well aware of their weak fighting spirit and (?poor) ability. Our combatants have soundly understood that the U.S. troops are only good in four things: good in dying, good in kowtowing, good in fleeing, and good in hiding, which are the four things a cowardly rabbit is good at. Now, these coward rabbits boast that they are hardy. How ridiculous they are. But this does not matter. Let them boast and brag. The time will come when their true faces as a pirate and cowardly rabbits will become exposed throughout the Batangan Peninsula, and finally, the U.S. troops will be but a laughingstock for everybody.

#### REPORTS ON PLAF MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH

Gia Dinh in 1968

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East 1553  
GMT 20 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 20 (GPA)--The people and Liberation Armed Forces in northern Gia Dinh Province, close to Saigon city, in 1968 put out of action 52,992 enemy troops including 33,117 GI's. In terms of units, the patriots wiped out or heavily

decimated 18 battalions, including six American battalions, and 65 companies, including 13 American companies. They also destroyed or damaged 2,401 military vehicles, shot down or destroyed on the ground 495 aircraft, and captured 853 guns of various kinds.

#### High Plateau Area

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1545 GMT 20 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 20 (GPA)--The patriotic armed forces in the first half of this month inflicted heavy losses on the enemy on the high plateaux, comprising 782 troops wiped out, two battalions and one company of the puppet army seriously decimated, 36 military vehicles, six cannon, 1.8 million litres of gasoline, an ammunition storage, 36 pipeline sections, and 21 blockhouses and barracks destroyed, 10 aircraft shot down or wrecked on the ground, and large quantities of weapons captured.

The P.L.A.F. were attacking the enemy in their fortified positions, airfields, storages, and on various communication lines particularly highways 14 and 19. The attack on the Sapa post on January 7 alone heavily decimated a puppet company, and the assault on the logistical complex east of Pleiku town cost the enemy 1.8 million litres of gasoline.

In Gia Lai Province, the regional forces from January 10 to 14 seriously trounced two puppet battalions, breaking off a massive raid. In Kontum, Darlac and Pleiku provinces, the regional forces and guerrillas repelled several operations conducted in the framework of the enemy's "accelerated pacification" program.

#### Binh Tinh Base

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1607 GMT 19 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 19 GPA--Binh Tinh, the base camp of a mixed battalion of the 3rd Brigade, US 9th Infantry Division, lies on the defence perimeter southwest of Saigon. In the base was installed a battalion headquarters and seven companies totalling 500 men.

There were, apart from 26 artillery pieces, one squadron of M-113 armoured cars, many helicopters, munition and petrol dumps and a score of billets. The base was surrounded by three walls of barbed wire entanglements and 30 blockhouses, and was covered by 40 cannon in seven neighbouring positions.

A series of terror raids had been launched from it against Tan Tru, Chau Thanh, and Can Duoc districts of Long An Province. Meanwhile, puppet troops and agents, emboldened by their US master, had frantically attacked the revolutionary forces in furtherance of the defence in depth, part of the hold and clear strategy and the accelerated pacification plan in the area.

On the night of December 12, 1968, the People's Liberation Armed Forces began their attack with a violent bombardment of the base, and within minutes, put it at the mercy of roaring flames. Shells landed squarely on three groupings of GI's, and set fire to one petrol dump, one munition storage, several houses and military vehicles.

From many directions the liberation fighters broke through the barbed wire entanglements, levelled virtually all the blockhouses, stormed into the headquarters and the billets of two infantry companies. In no time, the headquarters and signal centre were put out of action, and one lieutenant colonel, two majors and a score of company officers of the US were killed. Communication with the outside was out off. Many GI's threw away their guns, and fled in disorder. Others huddled together in a blockhouse to organize resistance, but were quickly disposed of by liberation fighters' anti-tank shells.

The battle lasted only 10 minutes. Four hundred GI's, one battalion headquarters, one command company and five other companies of the US were wiped out, and 26 artillery pieces, 25 blockhouses, 13 billets, two storages, a 7,000-litre petrol dump, 10 armoured cars, and three helicopters destroyed.

With this victory that followed those at Rach Kien, Can Giuoc, Can Duoc and Ben Luc, the People's Liberation Armed Forces again breached the southwestern defence of Saigon, striking another telling blow at the hold and clear and accelerated pacification plans of the US-puppets in this part of South Vietnam.

#### Tay Ninh Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1543 GMT 18 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 18 GPA--The regional forces and guerrillas in Tay Ninh Province in the 6 days ending January 10 wiped out more than 100 enemy troops including two platoons.

They shot down or destroyed on the ground nine planes, sank or set ablaze three vessels, and wrecked nine military vehicles.

On January 10, the liberation forces mounted three attacks on the enemy, killing or wounding 90 men of the puppet 1st Airborne Brigade. The same day, the armed forces in the province sank or set aflame three vessels on the Vam Co Dong River, wiping out two platoons on board. They also shot down three aircraft including one C-47 cargo plane just landed on the Katum airfield.

On January 8, liberation gunners destroyed six helicopters on the Ba Chiem airfield.

Nine military vehicles were set ablaze or wrecked on highways 13 and 26 on January 5, 6, and 7. Many occupants were put out of action.

#### More on Tay Ninh

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1556 GMT 21 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 21 GPA--In the first 10 days of this month, the regional forces and guerrillas in Tay Ninh's capital district launched 11 attacks, killing 250 enemy troops including 31 puppet captains and four U.S. advisers, and wounding 19 and capturing 15 others.

The liberation forces destroyed three M-113 armoured troops carriers, and seized 49 firearms.

On December 12, 17, 19, and 27, the regional forces in Tuyen Nhon district, Kien Tuong Province, sank or set ablaze 11 military craft on Vam Co Tay River, killing or wounding 150 U.S. and puppet troops.

On January 7, guerrillas sank three enemy vessels on the same river, wiping out 80 occupants.

On January 6 and 11, guerrillas sank or set on fire two boats, also on Vam Co Tay River, knocking down many enemy on board.

#### Province Capitals Hit

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0900 GMT 15 Jan 69 S

[Excerpts] Enthusiastically competing in carrying out President Ho's New Year greetings, to drive out the U.S. aggressors and overthrow the puppet clique, from 10 to 11 January, the armed forces and people of central Nam Bo simultaneously attacked the key administrative and military offices of the U.S.-puppet clique in the various province and district capitals, military subsectors, military posts, and strategic communication lines in My Tho, Kien Phong, and Kien Tuong provinces.

In My Tho, the PLAF simultaneously and accurately pounded the various administrative and military positions of the enemy in the center of the province capital, such as the command post of the puppet 7th Division, the My Tho military sector, the Hung Vuong training center, and other objectives in the province, such as the U.S. military base of Binh Duc, the Cai Be, Cai Lay, and Cho Gao military subsectors, inflicting serious losses in enemy potentials and war material. At the U.S. military base of Binh Duc, the liberation artillery destroyed six helicopters, many ammunition depots and gasdumps, and other war material of the U.S. forces.

In close coordination with the artillery units' activities, the liberation infantry troops attacked the pacification teams in charge of the accelerated pacification plan in and outside the province capital, destroying many of them. At Cai Be district, our forces pounded the Cai Be military subsector, and intercepted a cruel pacification group at My Duc Tay village, on Road 4.

From 11 to 12 January, the My Tho regional troops attacked and annihilated a U.S. infantry company stationed at Rach Ba Duoc, Hau Thuan village, Cai Be district, 1 kilometer north of Road 4, killing or injuring more than 100 U.S. aggressors and capturing large quantity of weapons and military equipment. On the same night, the compatriots of villages along Road 4, Cai Be, Cai Lay and Chau Thanh districts cooperated with the guerrillas in building emplacements and setting up obstacles on the road, in destroying many road portions, in blowing up the 100-meter Long Dinh bridge and another bridge, and cutting the enemy military supply line on Road 4. In Cai Lay district, our forces pounded the district chief's office, and the enemy artillery position, killing or injuring scores of U.S.-puppet troops. Moreover, our forces ambushed and annihilated a U.S. platoon stationed at the Tu Bo bridge, on Road 4, 1 kilometer from Cai Lay district capital, killing or injuring more than 20 U.S. aggressors and capturing many weapons, including a machinegun and an infra-red telescope.

At the same time, the regional troops and guerrillas attacked the enemy far inside Cai Lay district capital, annihilated the enemy at Lu Quan road intersection, disbanded four civilian self-defense groups, and controlled the area for 2 hours.

The armed self-defense and security combatants used grenades to attack the enemy security and police stations at a crossroad in Long Tauan at the Nam Thanh theater, punishing 10 villains, including two security officers of district and province echelons. Our armed forces also ransacked the administrative office of Nhi My village, and destroyed a watchtower, and pounded the Tai Hoi and (?12) posts.

#### My Tho Province

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 13 Jan 69 S

[Excerpt] On the night of 11 to 12 January, the My Tho PLAF again used big guns to shell the Cai Be military subsector command post, 35 kilometers west of the My Tho provincial capital. At the same time, the PLAF attacked a position of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division, less than 5 kilometers northwest of Cai Be. The enemy admitted that 26 Americans had been killed or wounded. The My Tho combatants also blew up the Long Dinh bridge, 11 kilometers west of the provincial capital. This bridge spans the My Tho River on Route 4, linking Saigon with western Nam Bo.

#### Long Tau River

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East 1541 GMT 18 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 18 GPA--The People's Liberation Armed Forces at 7.30 a.m. on January 12 fiercely attacked a U.S. 12,000-ton cargo ship transporting military material on the Long Tau River, some 20 km southeast of Saigon.

The enemy ship was set ablaze, and all GI's on board were wiped out and a large quantity of military equipment was destroyed. Left without crew, the vessel drifted toward Vung Tau port.

#### Vam Co Dong River

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East 1536 GMT 21 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 21 GPA--The regional forces in Tay Ninh Province on January 13 ambushed a convoy of enemy patrol boats on the Vam Co Dong River, sinking four landing craft. Hundreds of enemy troops on board were killed or wounded.

#### Ben Tre Shelling

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 13 Jan 69 S

[Excerpt] In Ben Tre, on the night of 11 to 12 January, the liberation forces used big guns to shell the Kien Hoa military sector command post, in Ben Tre provincial capital, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy."

## Province Capitals Hit

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0536 GMT 22 Jan 69 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 22--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in Tay Ninh Province on January 14 and 15 destroyed 41 military vehicles and put out of action more than 150 enemy troops, according to radio Giai Phong.

On the morning of January 14, the liberation forces ambushed a convoy on Highway 2, destroying 20 vehicles and wiping out more than 100 GI's. At the same time, the guerrillas wrecked two enemy military vehicles on Highway 26.

In the afternoon of the same day, the P.L.A.F. intercepted another convoy on Highway 26, destroying eight vehicles, and killing or wounding many Americans.

The next day, the P.L.A.F. launched a surprise attack on a truck park at Bau Co, some 18 kilometers northeast of Tay Ninh Province's capital, blasting 11 vehicles.

Repeatedly attacking the enemy, the regional forces and guerrillas in Quang Nam Province from January 1st to 11 put out of action more than 100 American, puppet and Pak Chong-hui troops and seized a quantity of firearms.

In Hoi An, the capital of Quang Nam Province, the regional forces on January 10 launched big gun attacks on several positions, wiping out 30 enemy troops.

At night, the liberation fighters in the town assaulted a puppet-encampment in Truong Lo area, knocking down 51 enemy. At the same time, they killed five and wounded many other agents of the puppet 27th pacification team north of the town.

In My Tho Province, the armed forces and people on the night of January 19 mounted simultaneous attacks on enemy positions in the province's capital, causing heavy losses to the enemy.

The targets of the P.L.A.F. attacks included the headquarters of the puppet 7th Division, an artillery site, an armour park, the Hung Vuong military training camp, and a U.S. basecamp at Binh Duc.

## Nam Bo Attacks

Hanoi VNA International Service in French 0710 GMT 21 Jan 69 B

[Text] Numerous enemy positions spreading from the high plateaus to the delta of Nam Bo were submitted to new attacks by the South Vietnam PLAF on the night of 19 to 20 January, according to Western sources.

During the course of these attacks, nine helicopters of the base of the 9th U.S. Division at Binh Duc (My Tho) were destroyed and many GI's of the 1st Airmobile Cavalry Division stationed near Ca Tum (Tay Ninh) were killed or wounded.

Earlier, on 18 January, in two attacks at northwestern Dong Xoai (Bien Hoa), the PLAF put out of action 33 GI's.

On the same day, an enemy landing craft was damaged by the PLAF on Hau Giang River. The latter then intercepted a reinforcement convoy and shot down a UH-1 armed helicopter, killing five GI's aboard.

The same sources added that 20 enemy bases in Nam Bo, including the military sectors of Chau Doc and Go Cong, were shelled on the night of 18-19 January by the liberation fighters.

#### My Tho Shelled

Hanoi VNA International Service in French 1350 GMT 21 Jan 69 B

[Text] On 19 January, at 0200, the PLAF launched new simultaneous attacks against several enemy positions inside and outside of My Tho town, LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY reports. It was the third time since the night of 10 to 11 January that the artillery of the PLAF pounded My Tho, where projectiles fell on the headquarters of the puppet 7th Division, the river base, the American barracks, the 71st artillery base, the armored car base the Hung Vuong military training center, the American base of Binh Duc, and so forth. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy.

In addition, the regional forces and guerrillas attacked the cantonments of the 2d Battalion, 11th Regiment, puppet 7th Division, at a point 8 to 10 kilometers northeast of the town.

According to first reports, a company of this battalion at Thanh Binh village sustained heavy losses. The liberation fighters seized control of the situation and took a large quantity of arms and war materiel.

Another company of the same battalion had to abandon its cantonment at Long Tri.

#### Long An Shelled

Hanoi VNA International Service in French 0714 GMT 22 Jan 69 B

[Text] Two helicopters destroyed and several GI's killed or wounded are the enemy losses in an artillery attack launched in the afternoon of 20 January by the PLAF of Long An Province, Western sources report.

On the night between 20 and 21 January, the liberation fighters eliminated by grenades several Americans in the middle of Saigon.

At Kien Phong Province, an enemy river convoy composed of five boats was intercepted by the PLAF. One of these boats was sunk, a helicopter was shot down, and 10 GI's were killed or wounded.

On the same day, several enemy installations in Ca Mau, Tuyen Duc, and Ba Ria provinces were subjects to artillery bombardments by the revolutionary forces.

#### Other Cities Hit

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0100 GMT 22 Jan 69 S

[Text] On 20 January, the PLAF in Long An used big guns to attack a position of the U.S. 100th Light Infantry Brigade, near Binh Chanh, approximately 17 kilometers southwest of Saigon. The enemy admitted that this position was hit by 20 rounds of big guns, that two helicopters were destroyed, and that many Americans were wounded.

The PLAF in Bien Hoa attacked a freighter loaded with U.S. military equipment some 24 kilometers southeast of Saigon. The enemy admitted that this ship was hit by two rounds of big guns of the liberation troops and that it was the seventh ship which was attacked on Long Tau River in the past 20 days.

On the night of 20 to 21 January, the PLAF used grenades to annihilate many U.S. aggressors at two places in Saigon city. One of the places hit was a U.S. troop barracks, approximately 1,500 meters from a U.S. command post. The PLAF in Ca Mau used big guns to shell a position of a puppet battalion near the Ca Mau provincial capital. The enemy admitted that this position of the puppet battalion alone was hit by 80 rounds of the liberation troops' big guns.

The PLAF in Kien Phong, in the Plain of Reeds, intercepted and attacked five river patrol boats of the U.S. aggressors' and later attacked helicopters which came to rescue these boats. The enemy admitted that a boat was sunk, an armed helicopter was downed, and 10 Americans were dead or wounded. The enemy also admitted that this battle occurred at a place where 3 [as heard] days ago, the liberation troops intercepted and attacked four boats, heavily damaging one and annihilating eight Americans. The PLAF in Tuyen Duc attacked a U.S. officers' quarters in Dalat city. The enemy admitted that the liberation infantrymen attacked for 20 minutes with small arms and grenades. On the morning of 21 January, the PLAF in Ba Ria used big guns to attack the Vung Tau harbor. According to initial enemy reports, the U.S. Navy wharf there suffered the heaviest losses, and many Americans were dead or wounded in the regional airfield.

At 0200 on 19 January, the armed forces and people in the My Tho provincial capital simultaneously attacked many military and administrative enemy positions inside and outside the My Tho provincial capital. According to initial reports, in the areas surrounding the My Tho provincial capital, the PLAF shelled many enemy bases and positions, inflicting heavy losses on them. Since the night of 10 to 11 January, this was the 3rd time that PLAF artillery shells repeatedly hit the enemy hideouts in My Tho city, including the puppet division command headquarters, the riverine flotilla base, the U.S. billets, the 71st artillery base, the armored vehicle pool, and the Hung Vuong military training center and the U.S. military base at Binh Duc, placing the enemy in a situation of continuous confusion and alarm.

Along with the shelling of enemy positions around the provincial city, the regional troops and guerrillas in the surrounding villages attacked the bivouacs of troops of the puppet 2d Battalion, 11th Regiment, 7th Division at a distance of 8 to 10 kilometers northeast of the provincial city. After a 25-minute battle, they inflicted heavy losses on a company of this battalion stationed at Thanh Binh village, routing the remnant troops, seizing full control of the battlefield, and seizing large quantities of weapons and military equipment. Another company of the 2nd Battalion stationed at Long Tri village fled to the Ong Van position. Many other strongholds and posts were simultaneously encircled and attacked by the guerrillas and compatriots. Fighting is going on in the My Tho provincial capital.

#### DISCONTENT AMONG U.S., SAIGON TROOPS NOTED

##### Saigon Troops

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East 1530 GMT 21 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 21 GPA--Some 910 puppet troops in Quang Ngai Province last November left for home or crossed over to the people's side. This figure did not include six platoons and one squad that deserted collectively, carrying with them many weapons.