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URBAN PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT IN 1968 REVIEWED

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
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[Text] South Vietnam January 28 GPA--The paper "SOUTH VIETNAM IN STRUGGLE" has passed under review the urban people's movement in 1968. It said: "In the course of the sweeping military operations launched on the first days of the Lunar New Year in 1968, our urban population had risen up and brought their worthy contribution to the most resounding victories thus far recorded by our armed forces and people.

In Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, as in all the 44 cities and provincial capitals and a hundred district towns, millions of people turned out into the streets for fighting or serving the fight. The NFL flag's appearance even over public offices, military positions, and leading organs was a great exhortation for the citizens who had been so far waiting for the revolution. Thousands of youths, students and pupils eagerly enlisted in the PLAF and self-defence units to hunt down die-hard, cruel agents and valiantly fought on their home streets. Old-age men and children, unable to handle guns, actively took part in sentry duty, defence-works, building transportation, supplying and first aid.

The Independence Palace inter-arms general staff [as received], general police department, radio station, U.S. Embassy in Saigon, as well as administrative offices, police and military stations, U.S. and puppet barracks and blockhouses were repeatedly assailed or occupied by the people and armed forces acting in close coordination. The U.S. puppets' stifling grip was shattered. The people rose up, brought the situation under their control, and set up revolutionary power in many areas including Hue and several districts of Saigon city.

Emerging from the great fight were the brilliant example of 11 girls in Hue who heroically pushed back a U.S. battalion counter-attack and killed 120 GI's, the glorious exploit of 15 teen-age fighters in Saigon, who put up a fierce resistance to a thousand enemy troops in Tan Son Nhut airport, the valorous bravery of a girl--Phan Thi Oanh--who, while fighting and wresting guns from the enemy, had managed to proselyte puppet soldiers into deserters, participate in political struggle and teach her country-fellows how to protect themselves from the adversary's bombs and shell. [as received] Innumerable were the citizens who warmly welcomed the PLAF fighters and the NFLS cadres. Reflecting this striking reality, the French paper COMBAT in its issue of February 2, 1968, wrote: "What has happened in Saigon suffices to show that the SVFNL has, in a very large measure, gained all strata in South Vietnam."

In those days of resounding exploits, the Vietnam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being. Thanks to its clear-sighted and fair program of action, it has won general approval and warm welcome from all urban strata and has rapidly rallied various social classes and religious communities, even many elements belonging to the puppet administration and army. For the whole year and with tirelessness, the urban people have pushed forward political struggles to demand that the U.S. and puppets stop bombing and shelling populated areas, that human and material losses be compensated, and that the people be allowed to move freely to help one another. At the same time, like a wild animal suffering from deadly wounds, the U.S.-puppets furiously resorted to counter-attacks, repressions, and massive arrests.

Effervescent counter-terrorism drives unfolded. Launching the movement on June 16, 1968, the Saigon Students Union executive committee, on behalf of their 25,000 comrades in nine universities, issued a statement demanding that the U.S. put an end to their aggressive war in Vietnam. Soon afterwards, on July 7, 1968, 18 Saigon students started a hunger strike and opened discussions to condemn the barbarous assassination of their comrade Tran Quoc Chuong and protest the "general mobilization", the "emergency state", the arrests of and sentences passed on students Nguyen Thanh Cong, Nguyen Van Chinh, Duong Van Dai, Dao Thi Nguyen Thanh, etc.

On the night of December 24, students turned out into the streets for a big demonstration, displaying banners and chanting slogans demanding the restoration of peace, serious talks with the NFL, the overthrow of Thieu-Ky-Huong, and the formation of a peace cabinet. While the demonstration was moving through Saigon streets, NFL flags made their appearance. Struck with dismay, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique ordered their police to bar the demonstrators and arrest and carry away about a hundred students.

When the U.S. imperialists' failure forced them to an unconditional cessation of the bombing over the whole territory of the DRV and peace talks with the NFL, a series of struggle drives flared up in the cities here, with slogans calling for peace and talks with the NFL. Discussions took place in public places with tens of thousands of participants who angrily denounced Thieu-Ky-Huong as a band of obdurate and bellicose traitors seeking to delay the Paris four-delegation conference for the settlement of the Vietnamese problem. Puppet civil servants and soldiers also joined the people in the struggle.

During the last months of 1968, workers of many public and private factories in Saigon and the U.S. AID went into fierce struggles for economic and democratic rights and against dismissal. Meanwhile, the urban people have feverishly risen up against the arbitrary increase in the price of rice and other foodstuffs which has rendered living conditions much harder. A good many overtly declared that there is only one way left to end the present miserable life and all the evils, and that is to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, set up a peace cabinet, and enter into talks with the NFL. In spite of their extremely atrocious repressions, the ruling traitors remain powerless.

In close coordination with armed attacks and agitation work among enemy troops, the urban population's struggle has made steadier steps and taken on varied forms. This struggle, spearheaded at the U.S. aggressors and their puppets, is making a worthy contribution to the fight for national salvation of the entire people of South Vietnam.

## GORTON ANNOUNCES RESTRICTIVE SECURITY POLICY

Djakarta ANTARA in English 1339 GMT 25 Jan 69 B

[Text] Canberra, Jan. 25 (ANTARA)--Australia will maintain her troops in Malaysia and Singapore after 1971 but only after certain conditions have been fulfilled. Prime Minister Gorton recently announced here that the government had arrived at a long-term security policy. The contents of the decision, however, will not be made known until the close of Parliament's series of sessions next February.

The ANTARA correspondent here was informed that the Australian defence policy agreed to maintain Australian troops in Singapore and Malaysia after the withdrawal of British troops from the two territories in 1971. The agreement, however, will be reached only after the parties concerned make clear the duties of the troops in question. What Australia feared most was the possibility of Australian troops being engaged in defence and internal security operations. Also, Australia did not like the possible disputes that might arise between Malaysia and Singapore and noncommunist nations, such as Indonesia and the Philippines. The Australian Government in this context wanted to make it clear that her troops were only to be employed in the event of an external communist aggression. Australia deemed it necessary to be given assurances in this matter as Malaysia was now quarrelling with the Philippines over Sabah. Likewise relations between Indonesia and Singapore were somewhat disturbed as the result of the execution of two Indonesian marines at Change Prison.

Although Australia has in principle agreed to maintain her troops in Singapore and Malaysia after 1971, the nature of its commitments greatly depended on two factors, namely the attitude of the United States and that of Indonesia. At the beginning of next year, Prime Minister Gorton will make a tour of the United States. On this occasion he will sound out the views of President Nixon on America's future defence policies in Asia. The Prime Minister was of the view that if America did not want to give guarantees as to her role in the defence of Asia, it would be better for Australia to withdraw her troops from Singapore and Malaysia to the northern part of the country, thereby pursuing the fortress Australia concept. If Australian troops were to be maintained in Singapore and Malaysia, Australia would like to have assurances from Indonesia as to the latter's role in the region as Indonesia constituted the biggest force in Southeast Asia and Australia's closest neighbour.

Canberra fully realized that there were still doubts in Malaysia as well as in Singapore as regards Indonesia's intentions in the future. It was these doubts that prompted Singapore and Malaysia to retain Australian troops in their territories. The government of Australia in this context needed a firm commitment from Indonesia on her security role in Southeast Asia. Canberra was of the opinion that it was impossible for Australia to act as a watchdog without certain assurances from the United States and full cooperation with Indonesia. Said a high-ranking official of the Department for Defence in Canberra: "We are well aware that Indonesia today is concentrating on her economic rehabilitation policy." It is to be hoped that by 1971 rehabilitation efforts will have been carried out successfully so that by that time Indonesia could think of campaigns in terms of common interests in Southeast Asia.